

Bahrain uncovers subversive cell

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahraini authorities said on Monday they had uncovered an underground cell "aimed at undermining economic and public installations" in the country. A statement by an official source at the Ministry of Interior said three Bahrainis had been arrested and security officials had found several "caches." It did not say what was in the caches. The statement, carried by the Gulf News Agency (GNA), said: "The three men admitted their involvement in the subversive act before the judge following the investigation." The statement did not identify which installations had been threatened. Diplomatic sources told Reuters last week three Bahrainis had been arrested in connection with a plot to sabotage Bahrain's oil refinery. The Interior Ministry statement said: "Alert public security officials foiled the plan before it could be carried out after following up suspicious activities and contacts inside and outside the country. The first defendant admitted that he had been trained on using arms and explosives in a training camp outside Bahrain, while the other two admitted their involvement in supporting the plan."



OIC meeting delayed

IFRANE (AP) — Morocco's King Hassan II became ill with influenza on Monday, hours before he was to preside at an emergency session of the Organisation of Islamic Conference's (OIC) Jerusalem Committee, his doctors said. A group of four physicians issued a statement saying that the king suffered from an "influenza syndrome with high fever" and was urged to rest for at least 24 hours. The king's illness was expected to delay a scheduled one-day meeting of the Jerusalem Committee convened to discuss the tense situation in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Iran and Syria were absent Monday as senior officials from the other 13 member nations gathered for the session in this Atlas mountain resort. The Jerusalem Committee was established in 1975 by the OIC to monitor implementation of conference decisions concerning Jerusalem.

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King congratulates Zimbabwean leader

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable of good wishes to Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe congratulating him on the occasion of his election as executive president. The King wished President Mugabe continuing good health and happiness and the people of Zimbabwe further progress and prosperity.

King receives university president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday received at the Royal Court University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali. Dr. Majali presented to His Majesty an emblem commemorating the university's silver jubilee in recognition of His Majesty's continuing support to the university and to education in Jordan.

Crown Prince leaves for Austria

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday left for Vienna on a several-day private visit to Austria. The Crown Prince was seen off by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and senior officials.

Rifai, Italian envoy discuss ties

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Monday received Italian Ambassador to Jordan Luigi Annaduzzi and discussed with him bilateral relations.

Shevardnadze meets Najibullah in Kabul

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze flew to Kabul on Monday and went straight into talks with Afghan President Najibullah. The official TASS news agency described Mr. Shevardnadze's previously unannounced trip as a working visit. It gave no details of his discussion with Mr. Najibullah.

Austria offers to host peace talks

ABU DHABI (R) — Austrian Interior Minister Karl Blecha said on Monday Vienna was willing to host a Middle East peace conference but he acknowledged that relations with Israel would have to improve first. Mr. Blecha told reporters that Austrian Foreign Minister Mock Alois had proposed Vienna as conference venue when he met Egyptian officials in Cairo last month.

Assad meets Saudi envoy

DAMASCUS (AP) — President Hafez Al Assad on Monday met Prince Abdul Rahman Ibn Abdul Aziz, the deputy Saudi Arabian defence minister, who delivered a verbal message from King Fahd, the Syrian News Agency (SANA) reported. The agency also said that Mr. Assad delivered to the prince a verbal message to the Saudi monarch.

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King confers with British Labour leader

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein conferred Monday with Gerald Kaufman, British Labour Party spokesman on foreign affairs.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, gave no details of the King's talks with Dr. Kaufman, who earlier discussed the Palestinian protests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai.

Mr. Rifai and Mr. Kaufman reviewed developments in the Middle East region and the current situation in the occupied Arab territories, which Mr. Kaufman recently visited, Petra said. Mr. Rifai told Mr. Kaufman that peace could not be achieved

Panel concludes review of pan-Arab organisations

AMMAN (Petra) — An eight-member Arab League committee entrusted with examining the work and performance of pan-Arab organisations concluded their meeting Monday and its members announced the adoption of resolutions and recommendations designed to develop the performance of these organisations.

The committee will submit its findings to a meeting in February of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) in Tunis.

His Majesty King Hussein attended part of the meetings along with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who chaired the sessions, and announced Jordan's support for the committee's work.

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His Majesty King Hussein Monday confers with Mr. Gerald Kaufman, the British Labour Party's spokesman who is currently on a visit to Jordan (Petra photo)

Mellor is 'shocked' in Jabalya, says no peace without Palestinian rights

JABALYA, Gaza Strip (R) — British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs David Mellor berated an Israeli officer on Monday for ordering the arrest of Palestinians while he was visiting a refugee camp in the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Mellor was touring Jabalya, largest of the eight refugee camps in Gaza. One resident said that his 14-year-old son was one of several boys arrested by soldiers as Mr. Mellor entered the camp.

An Israeli colonel said the boys were arrested for throwing stones but Mr. Mellor, on a fact-finding mission to Israel and Israeli-occupied territories, angrily rejected the explanation.

"Why were they arrested? I saw no stones. Why were they arrested? Colonel, I think you should look into this immediately. This is not good, not good at all," he told the officer before striding off to rejoin his aide while the colonel returned to his jeep.

(Continued on page 4)

Seizure of ship raises new fears in Lebanon

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanese army coast guard cutters blockading a coastal strip controlled by the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) south of Beirut reportedly seized a cargo ship Monday, escalating tensions and heightening fears of an outbreak in the dormant civil war.

Radio stations said the coast guard cutters seized the cargo ship off the PSP-held port of Jiyeh and forced it to sail to Beirut, where the vessel's captain was being interrogated by army investigators. The vessel's nationality was not reported. The captain was not identified.

The reported seizure, the first since the army ordered a blockade of the territory controlled by the Druze-dominated PSP on Saturday, escalated already existing tensions between the PSP militia and the Christian-commanded Lebanese army.

Police and the army command withheld comment on the report by the Voice of Lebanon and Voice of Free Lebanon radio stations.

Lukewarm public response to voter cards prompts Interior Ministry to extend deadline

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The deadline for Jordan's 827,353 registered voters to acquire voter identification cards has expired with only 26.6 per cent of the eligible electorate obtaining the document without which they cannot vote, Interior Minister Rajai Dajani said Monday.

Mr. Dajani said the five-month period ended Thursday with only 219,882 cards issued.

The document is a must for every citizen who intends to exercise his or her democratic rights in electing their representatives to the Lower House of Parlia-



Rajai Dajani
ment, according to the new electoral law approved by Parliament in 1986.

The new cards replace the earlier identification instrument, the family book — *daftar al Ayleh* — which was the only identity document needed in previous by-elections. The family book is issued by the Civil Registration Department (CRD), which falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Interior. The card is valid for a period of 10 years from the date of issue.

Many government officials and parliamentarians had expected half of the total eligible electorate to obtain the voter card. The figure that was actually reached was described by Mr. Dajani as "close to previous forecasts."

(Continued on page 3)

Arabs slam Israel's expulsion move

By Alistair Lyon
Reuters

AMMAN — The Arab World has fiercely condemned Israel's plan to expel nine Palestinians accused of leading anti-occupation protests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In Amman, the minister for occupied territories affairs, Marwan Dudin, condemned the Israeli plan and reaffirmed that Jordan would try to foil Israel in any attempt to deport Palestinians to the East Bank.

"We condemn it," Mr. Dudin said of Israel's announcement on Sunday that it was expelling nine Palestinians.

Jordan has a long border with Israel and the West Bank and could not physically stop deportations, Mr. Dudin told Reuters.

"What we can do is uncover the whole world how inhuman, harsh and uncalled-for the Israeli actions are," he said.

Mr. Dudin described as a popular uprising the violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in which, according to official Israeli count, at least 24 Palestinians have died since Dec. 9.

"It started in Gaza with one slogan — 'Allah-o-Akbar, down with the occupation.' People resorted to their cultural roots and showed what they want, an end to the occupation. We think it is a healthy thing," he said.

Asked about proposals the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is discussing for a government-in-exile (See page 2), Mr. Dudin said: "I don't think it is opportune for us or for them to start talking of side-issues when the real issue is the uprising."

(Continued on page 4)

Palestinians vow revenge for raid that killed 26

AIN AL-HILWEH (Agencies) — Fighters fired machine-guns into the air and women wailed on Monday as the bodies of some of the 26 people killed in a weekend Israeli raid were driven through a South Lebanon refugee camp.

The 15 Palestinian victims, including seven children and a woman, were driven in ambulances from the hospital in 'Ain Al Hilweh camp to cemeteries in the Bourj Al Sbemali camp further south and in the village of Barja.

The Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), which lost three men in the Israeli raids on Saturday night, has vowed revenge along with the Fateh Revolutionary Council led by Abu Nidal.

Security sources quoted by Reuters said the Israeli attacks were seen as retaliation for a PFLP-GC hang-glider attack in November which killed six Israeli soldiers.

Abu Fida Omran, the top PFLP-GC official in South Leba-

non, told reporters at 'Ain Al-Hilweh the retaliation for the Israeli raid "will be more severe and more effective than the hang-glider attack."

Three members of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) were killed in the Israeli attack which heightened tensions between the Lebanese army and the Druze-dominated militia.

Rescuers worked through the night to dig out five bodies from the wreckage of buildings hit in the raids raising the death toll to 26, police reported.

Three people remained listed as missing after the night-long search by lamplight through the rubble of devastated buildings in the port of Jiyeh and Barja, police said.

One body was recovered in Jiyeh, 30 kilometres south of Beirut, and four in Barja, further south. All were Lebanese civilians, police said.

Abu Nidal's group said it would avenge the death with "widescale and severe attacks on all Zionist institutions."

Protesters clash with Israeli soldiers at Al Ram; pupils boycott classes and merchants observe strike

Killing of Arab woman sparks new wave of Palestinian revolt

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian demonstrators and Israeli troops traded rocks for tear-gas on Monday after a soldier killed a young Arab housewife and many towns in the occupied West Bank and Gaza observed a commercial strike in protest of Israeli actions in the occupied territories.

The largest protests occurred in the West Bank town of Al Ram where an Israeli soldier on Sunday shot and killed a 25-year-old woman, the 24th Palestinian to die of army gunfire since Dec. 8.

In a 90-minute confrontation, soldiers fired tear-gas and rubber bullets to disperse demonstrators

who threw stones and erected roadblocks of burning tyres to protest the killing. Columns of thick black smoke were visible for several miles.

Protests were also reported in a dozen towns and refugee camps throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Merchants closed

their shops in Arab Jerusalem, Ramallah and Gaza City, and hundreds of pupils stayed away from classes in Gaza schools.

Heavy rainfall throughout the day apparently helped limit the scope of protests. Sunday's shooting incident and deportation orders issued against nine Palestinian activists raised tensions after a few days of relative calm.

Eight kilometres north of Jerusalem, at Al Ram demonstrators threw rocks at troops and chanted: "With our blood and with our souls, we will redeem you, martyrs."

The Israeli troops coughed,

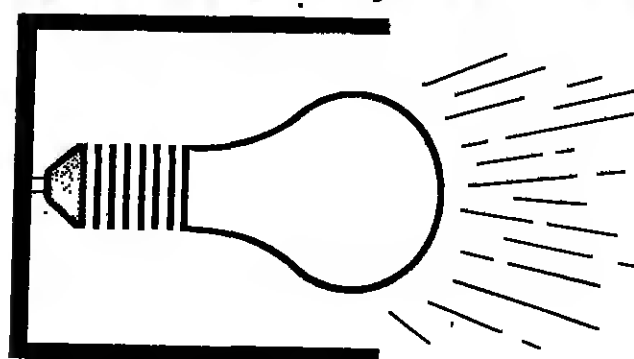
(Continued on page 3)



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Iraq waits for 'final harvest' as Iran prepares for new attack

By Ed Blanche
Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Every day, Iranian television shows thousands of cheering "Basij" or volunteers, waving huge Islamic banners as they leave for the war front with Iraq.

Revolutionary Guards Minister Mohsen Rafiq-Doust told one group: "We won't stop the war until the victory of Islam over the unbelievers."

As Iran gears up for another ground offensive in the Gulf war, the Iraqis dig in around the battered southern port of Basra, the likely target of the big push.

A slogan on walls in the city says: "The final harvest is coming."

Gen. Abdul Jahar Mohsen, the Iraqi army's chief spokesman, recently told reporters in Basra that the coming Iranian offensive was "the last kick of a dying man."

Iran and Iraq have been at war since September 1980. Despite United Nations, Islamic and Arab efforts to end the conflict — the longest conventional war this century — there is no sign of a halt to the slaughter.

By Western estimates, more than 1 million people have been killed and 1.7 million wounded. Iran claims it has more than 3 million men under arms. The

Iraqi army has an estimated 1 million men.

Iran has massed an estimated 250,000 to 300,000 men in the southern sector of the front for a new push. The Iraqis have bolstered their 3rd and 7th Army Corps in the south with another 50,000 to 100,000 men to blunt any new thrust.

For weeks, both sides have been talking of a renewal of intense fighting. Iran boasts of "delivering powerful blows," while Iraq warns the Iranians they will be "exterminated and massacred."

But beneath the saber-rattling and declarations, analysts believe weariness with the carnage is seeping through on both sides.

The war is clearly having an effect on their economies, causing widespread hardship and undermining the populations' willingness to make sacrifices.

The Iraqis have launched a financial "jihad," or Holy War, exhorting people who can't fight to give money to support the

fighters. Informed Iranian sources say people have been forced to pay millions of dollars for the war effort.

Reports are rife of wealthy merchants who buy their sons out of military service.

Many families have taken young sons out of the country before they reach the draft age. Now no male over the age of 13 is allowed to leave Iran.

Leaders on both sides have been out in the countryside rallying their people for another round of fighting in the winter campaign season.

Most of the major battles are in the winter because in summer, temperatures soar to a debilitating 120 degrees Fahrenheit (48 Centigrade) in the flatlands and flinty hills in the southern and central sectors of the 730-mile (1,180-kilometre) front.

On the Iraqi side, President Saddam Hussein recently flew to Basra on a morale-boosting visit and to inspect the formidable defence lines on the city's eastern outskirts.

He has also shaken up his high command following Iran's last big offensive in January and February. In that thrust, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's Revolutionary Guards broke through three Iraqi defence lines and for a while looked as though they

might capture Basra. They battled to within six miles (10 kms) of the city before they were stopped with appalling losses.

President Hussein has since replaced several of his commanders. Western diplomats in Baghdad report.

They also said the army's cumbersome chain of command, under which field commanders had little freedom of action, has been shaken up to give frontline forces more flexibility.

Iran's President, Ali Khamenei, Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani and other key leaders have been recruiting heavily across the country.

Analysts say this unprecedented campaign indicates volunteers are not coming forward on the scale they have in the past.

Education Minister Kazem Akrami, exhorting students to enlist, told one rally that field commanders have said that schoolboys "were the best frontline fighters in operations in which they spearheaded" suicidal human-wave assaults through Iraqi minefields.

The Iraqis, who hold some 12,000 Iranian prisoners, have captured some boys as young as 10 years old.

Ariane denies agreement to launch Iranian satellite

PARIS (R) — The European rocket consortium ArianeSpace denied on Monday that it had agreed to launch an Iranian telecommunications satellite.

The Iranian News Agency (IRNA) quoted Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Gharazi on Saturday as saying that the Zohreh satellite, a \$600-million project designed and built by Iranians, would be launched in the near future to provide television pictures throughout Iran.

"Ariane will launch the Iranian

satellite at the cost of \$45 million," IRNA quoted Mr. Gharazi as saying.

A spokesman for the Paris-based ArianeSpace, responding to a Reuters enquiry, said on Monday that "there are no negotiations under way at present, and there is no contract."

He said Iran had approached ArianeSpace to discuss the satellite, and did not exclude talks in the future, but denied that any agreement had been reached so far.

Spain grants asylum to 3 Iranians

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Spanish authorities have granted asylum to three Iranians, one of them a 14-year-old boy, after holding the refugees at Madrid's Barajas Airport for a week, police said Monday.

Police said 22-year-old Roya Fajani was recovering in a Madrid hospital from a hunger strike she began Wednesday to protest an earlier government decision to deny the three asylum.

Fajani, 14-year-old Reza Sirimi and a former Iranian army member whom police did not identify had been held in the airport's transit area since Dec. 28.

A Madrid newspaper report said Fajani had told a local lawyer she would be killed if she returned to Iran and had claimed her mother had been killed there for political reasons.

She also told the lawyer her father, an Iranian living in Canada, would financially support her while she was in Spain, the paper said.

On Dec. 21, Spanish authorities granted asylum to five Iranians after a week-long odyssey during which they had been shuttled between The Netherlands, Spain and Turkey before being returned to Spain.

Douglas Hurd in Tunisia

TUNIS (R) — British Home Secretary (Interior Minister) Douglas Hurd began a three-day official visit to Tunisia on Sunday during which he will discuss international cooperation in the fight against crime and terrorism.

Mr. Hurd, who will visit Morocco on Wednesday, is also expected to discuss four hotel bombings in Tunisia in August in which 12 British and Italian tourists were injured.

"I think, as interior minister, that friendly countries must increasingly cooperate in the fight against organised crime, drug-trafficking and terrorism," he

told reporters in French on arrival at Tunis-Carthage Airport.

Diplomatic sources said Mr. Hurd was likely to discuss the hotel bombings, which the Tunisian authorities blamed on an Islamic fundamentalist group, the Islamic Tendency Movement (MTI).

MTI was at the centre of a mass treason trial resulting in seven death sentences in September and the sources said Mr. Hurd could discuss the case of Hamadi Jebali, an MTI leader sentenced to death in absentia. Jebali has fled Tunisia and has been in Britain.

Hernu calls for broad probe on Iran arms sales

PARIS (R) — Socialist Former Defence Minister Charles Hernu, caught in a row over illegal French arms sales to Iran, called on Sunday for an inquiry into all such deals with Tehran in the past decade.

The right-wing government is already investigating the sale of almost half a million artillery shells to Iran between 1983 and 1985 by a French arms company, Lucchese SA.

The sales, which took place under the previous, Socialist gov-

ernment when Mr. Hernu was minister, violated France's self-imposed embargo on arms sales to Iran.

Mr. Hernu said on television the government should examine munition sales to Iran by all French governments in the past decade, not just the 1981-86 Socialist administration.

"We would soon see if only the Socialists were to blame, if there was an impartial inquiry," he said.

Dole blames Reagan for Iran affair

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican presidential candidate Sen. Bob Dole says President Ronald Reagan shares in the blame for the Iran-contra affair and that fired White House aide Oliver North may be a patriot but is "not a hero."

Sen. Dole, the Senate Republican leader, told David Frost in an interview that the plan to sell arms to Iran in exchange for the freedom of U.S. citizens held hostage in Lebanon "runs against the grain of everything we stand for in America."

Asked if Mr. Reagan were to blame for the affair, Sen. Dole replied: "Blame, I assume he gets a little of that. Everybody around him gets a little of that."

North, a Marine lieutenant colonel who worked for the National Security Council, played a central role in selling arms to Iran and diverting profits from those sales to the contra rebels in Nicaragua.

"I think history will regard Oliver North as a patriot but not in what he was doing in the White House," Sen. Dole said. "I think once he started dealing maybe as an agent for the president, then he overstepped his bounds, he didn't serve the president well. He is not a hero in that regard."

Sen. Dole, whose wife, Elizabeth, resigned as secretary of transportation to help with his presidential campaign, all but ruled out naming her as his vice presidential running mate if he should win the Republican presidential nomination.

Peres to testify at Vanunu trial

JERUSALEM (R) — Israel's Foreign Minister Shimon Peres will testify on Wednesday at the trial of Mordechai Vanunu, accused of passing Israeli nuclear secrets to a British newspaper, Peres's office said on Monday.

The office declined to discuss the subjects of his testimony, but Israel Radio said he would be asked about Israeli nuclear policy which he helped to shape as a senior Defence Ministry official during the 1950s and 1960s.

He will also testify on Vanunu's mysterious arrival in Israel in September 1986, nearly six weeks after telling London's Sunday Times the Jewish state had produced nuclear warheads for 20 years, the radio said.

Vanunu, 33, says he was abducted at the time, when Peres was serving as prime minister.

On Monday, an American professor of international relations, Richard Questor, was due to testify behind closed doors about a nuclear armament.

Soviet aide briefs Mubarak on summit

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak met on Monday with a senior Soviet official who reported on the outcome of last month's superpower summit in Washington.

Karen Brutents, deputy chairman of the International Relations Department at the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee, told reporters the meeting was friendly. "We discussed all matters of common interest," he said.

Mr. Brutents arrived in Cairo Friday from Damascus, Syria. He is on an Arab tour to brief leaders on the Washington summit between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

"I told President Mubarak about the effect of the summit meeting on the world situation, progress toward the consolidation of peace in the field of disarmament and development of international cooperation, including U.S.-Soviet cooperation aimed at solving world problems," Mr. Brutents told reporters. He spoke in Russian through an Arabic interpreter.

He said the Soviet Union "attaches great importance to the solution of regional problems, as this is essential to advance towards world peace and ease international tension."

Mr. Brutents and Mr. Gorbachev signed an agreement banning intermediate-range nuclear missiles but failed to produce tangible results on regional conflicts like the Iran-Iraq war and the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Israeli aide's S. African visit criticised

TEL AVIV (R) — A visit to South Africa by an Israeli cabinet minister next month will damage Israel's efforts to lower its profile in relations with Pretoria, Member of Knesset Chayke Grossman said on Monday.

The visit by Minister-Without-Portfolio Yosef Shapira will be the first by a cabinet minister in the four months since Israel imposed sanctions on South Africa that limit cultural links and official visits.

Israel's cabinet unanimously agreed on Sunday that Shapira could meet members of South Africa's Jewish community. Shapira emphasised he did not intend to meet government officials.

"The fact is the government decided to lower the profile of relations with South Africa, and since then no minister has gone," Grossman, a member of the left-list opposition Mapam Party, told Israel Radio.

"I can't understand why now of all times," she said.

The radio said Grossman planned to introduce a parliamentary motion to bar the visit.

Shapira, of the National Religious Party, said the visit aimed primarily at persuading South Africa's 110,000 Jews to immigrate to Israel.

"When we know immigration is so critical, a need — for the immigrants and for Israel — we need not be concerned with how relations stand with the state we are talking about," he said in a radio interview.

Israeli actions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Palestinian protests and clashes with Israeli forces have left 23 Palestinians dead in the two areas since Dec. 8.

Egypt, the only Arab state having a peace treaty and diplomatic ties with Israel, has condemned strongly "repressive" policies by the Jewish state in occupied Arab territory. The United States also has criticised Israel for using "excessive force" against the Palestinians.

Both Washington and Cairo have warned that Israel's threatened deportation of Palestinians would violate international law and could lead to more violence. Egypt reportedly has vowed not to accept Palestinian deportees across its common border with Israel.

Israel has announced it intends to deport nine Palestinians, but the men can go to court to appeal the decision.

Sen. Chafee, a member of the U.S. Senate's Committee of Environment, Public Works and Finance, is on a regional familiarisation tour which will take him also to Jordan and Israel.

Experts rule out mid-air explosion in Turkey crash

FRANKFURT, West Germany (R) — West German experts who inspected the debris of a Boeing 737 jet that crashed in Turkey found no evidence to indicate that the plane exploded in mid-air, the operating airline said on Sunday.

In a statement, the Lufthansa charter subsidiary Condor said the experts told the company

headquarters in Neu Isenburg near Frankfurt that the position of the plane's landing gear suggested it was about to land when it crashed killing all 16 people aboard.

Turkish Communications Minister Ekrem Pakdemirli said earlier on Sunday that the crash could have been caused by sabotage or lightning.

PLO seriously considers government-in-exile

WASHINGTON (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat suggested that he expected the PLO to form a provisional government-in-exile soon and to launch a major Middle East peace initiative, the Washington Post reported on Monday.

"I think we must have this government" in exile, Mr. Arafat told the newspaper in a Kuwaiti-dated dispatch. But he said he remained officially neutral about the possible move while internal debate continued.

Creation of such a government would be accompanied, he said, "no doubt (by) a major new political platform" aimed at overcoming a long-standing refusal by the United States and Israel to talk openly with the PLO.

Washington has demanded that the PLO recognise Israel's right to exist and renounce "terrorism" before it agrees to open channels of communication.

The Post said Mr. Arafat did not rule out formally recognising Israel within the borders it had

before occupying the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the 1967 Middle East war.

Such recognition would be a major concession by the PLO, which has pressed in the past for a Palestinian state on any territory given up by Israel under a peace settlement.

The newspaper said Mr. Arafat was visibly buoyed by the continuing anti-Israeli demonstrations in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and by Arabs inside Israel.

Mr. Arafat said talks on the possible government-in-exile were expected to wind up by early next month after PLO consultations with foreign governments, notably the Arab World, Western Europe, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Soviet Bloc.

The creation of a government-in-exile has been under discussion for more than 15 years and has been opposed by radical groups within the PLO as well as by important segments of Mr. Arafat's Fatah organisation.

TV & RADIO

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17:45	Local programme
18:15	Basketball
19:00	Message from Oman
19:15	Local programme
19:50	Programme review and varieties
20:30	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic Series
21:30	Cultural programme
22:00	Varieties programme
23:00	News summary in Arabic
23:10	Close down
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Deux de conduite
19:00	News in French
19:15	French varieties
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Varieties
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Standby light Camera Action
21:25	Executive Stress
22:00	News in English
22:20	The Equalizer
23:10	Three's Company

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11:00	Just a Minute
11:00	Follow the Wind
12:00	News Summary
12:05	30 Minute Theatre
13:00	News Summary
13:05	Pop Session Cont.
14:00	News Bulletin
14:15	Easy Listening
14:30	Concert Hour
15:00	News Summary
15:00	News Summary
16:30	Old Favorites
17:00	Pop Talk
17:30	Pop Session
18:00	News Summary
18:05	Top Twenty
18:30	Music Desk
19:30	Date with a Star
20:00	Evening Show
21:00	News Summary

TODAY'S EVENTS	
holidays 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.).	
Closed Tuesdays.	
Mariyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.	
CHILDREN'S FILMS	
* Children's French films and cartoons at 10:30 a.m. at the Haya Arts Centre (Jan. 3 to 7).	
ABC NEWS	
* A selection of the latest news from the United States taped from the ABC Evening News of the previous week at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre.	
FILM	
* "Fizicallando" [with English subtitles] at 8:00 p.m. at the Goethe Institute.	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267	
American Centre .. 64371	
British Council .. 6361478	
French Cultural Centre .. 63709	
Goethe Institute .. 64193	
Soviet Cultural Centre .. 64393	
Turkish Cultural Centre .. 63409	
Haya Arts Centre .. 63777	
Hussein Youth City .. 6671816	
Y.W.C.A. .. 641793	
Y.W.M.C.A. .. 64251	
Amman Municipal Library .. 63711	
Univ. of Jordan Library .. 64355	
MUSEUMS	
"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.	
Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.-3 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 631761.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official	

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 53300-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)	
06:30	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
09:15	Agaba (RJ)
09:30	Kuwait (RJ)
10:40	Cairo (RJ)
09:40	Jeddah (RJ)
09:55	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
17:10	Larnaca (RJ)
17:35	New York, Vienna (RJ)
18:05	Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
18:15	Istanbul (RJ)
19:00	Rome (add.) (RJ)
19:45	Tripoli (LI)
19:45	Paris, Brussels (RJ)
19:45	Rome (RJ)
22:10	Geneva (RJ)
OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	
13:20	Moscow (SU)
13:40	Bucharest (RO)
13:40	Kuwait (RJ)
14:45	Tripoli (LI)
15:00	Riyadh (SV)
17:35	London (BA)
17:45	Rome (AZ)
18:15	Beirut (ME)
19:15	Dubai (EK)
20:10	Zurich, Larnaca (SR)
06:30	London, Cairo (BA)
DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)	
07:00	Agaba (RJ)
08:00	Agaba, Rome (add.) (RJ)
10:30	Rome (RJ)
10:45	Vienna, New York (RJ)
11:00	Belgrade, Madrid (RJ)
12:10	London (BA)
12:45	Istanbul (RJ)
13:00	Larnaca (RJ)
19:35	Kuwait (RJ)
19:40	Dhahran (RJ)
20:15	Cairo (RJ)
20:30	Rome (add.) (RJ)
20:45	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:15	Damascus (RJ)
22:00	Bangkok (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	
08:30	Beirut (ME)
14:50	Moscow (SU)
15:00	Kuwait (RJ)
15:10	Bucharest (RO)
15:45	Kuwait (RN)
16:40	Riyadh (SV)
17:20	Cairo (MS)
18:15	Damascus (RJ)
20:15	Dubai (EK)
PRAYER TIMES	
05:11	Fajr
06:34	Sunrise
11:40	Dhuhr
14:23	'Asr
16:46	Maghrib
18:09	'Isa
MONEY EXCHANGE	
Monday rates	
Local sell/buy rates in fils	
Belgian franc	88.77
Dutch guilder	163.72
French franc	61.17
Italian lire	28/ 62.3
Japanese yen (for 100)	267.4
Swedish crown	56.54
Swiss franc	25/ 261.5
U.K. sterling pound	612.3
U.S. dollar	327.6
W. German mark	206.6
WEATHER	
Bullec supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be foggy in the morning, especially in the mountainous area; and will be partly cloudy to cloudy, with chances for scattered rain. Winds will be southeasterly moderate, to light. In the afternoon, winds will be westerly moderate, with chances for scattered rain. Winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	4/ 9
Agaba	13/ 18
Deserts	4/ 16
Jordan Valley	14/ 19
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 9, Agaba 15. Humidity readings: Amman 65 per cent. Agaba 60 per cent.	
EMERGENCIES	
Amman governorate	891228
Amman Civil Defence	198, 199
Civil Defence Irbid	771293, 773131
Civil Defence Queswach	770733
Civil Defence Deir Alla	57300
Ambulance	153, 77511
Amman downtown fire brigade	198
First aid	630341
Blood Bank	778303
Civil Defence rescue	61111
Fire headquarters	62200-3
Police rescue	192, 62111, 63777
Police headquarters	639141
Traffic police	8932941
Electric Power Co.	6363816, 634881
Municipal water complaints	771258
Queen Alia Int. Airport	(08) 53300-60
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Hani Haddadin	77751
Dr. Fakher Beldousi	62778
Dr. Tawseer Khader	60867
Dr. Abbas Al-Hakim	891501
Firas pharmacy	649192
Ferdows pharmacy	767336
Al Asma pharmacy	67065
Nairoukh pharmacy	62672
Al-Khalid pharmacy	636731
TAXIS:	
Kayvali taxi	636730
Takma taxi	64460
Tamer taxi	66867
Raghadan taxi	64300
Raqab taxi	736428
Sayel taxi	776131
IRBID:	
Dr. Amin Abu Eish	24460
Shura pharmacy	76825
ZARQA:	
Dr. Saleem Abu Adila	96300
Khalid pharmacy	96417
GENERAL	
Jordan Television	77111/9
Radio Jordan	77411/9
Ministry of Tourism	642311
Hotel complaints	66412
Price complaints	66176
Telephone Information	12
Jordan and Middle East calls	10
Overseas calls	17
Repair service	11

MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.	
Apple (different kinds)	300, 250
Apple (French)	420, 360
Banana	320, 300
Banana (Mukammal)	300, 240
Beans	180, 180
Beans (Bnadi)	450, 380
Beetroot	250, 200
Cabbage	70, 40
Carrot	250, 200
Cauliflower	80, 80
Cucumbers	250, 200
Dates (dry)	1200, 1000
Eggplant (large)	70, 40
Eggplant (small)	140, 100
Garlic	350, 250
Grapefruit	120, 100
Lemon	120, 80
Mandarin	180, 120
Marrow	120, 80
Onion (dry)	100, 70
Onion (green)	100, 70
Onion (dry)	200, 140
Oranges (Abusara)	250, 200
Oranges (Shameisani)	250, 200
Pepper (dry)	100, 70
Pepper (sweet)	100, 70
Potato	100, 100
Radish	100, 70
Spinach	100, 70
Tomatoes	120, 100
Turnip	150, 120

Haj Hassan reviews social services in Madaba region

MADABA (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan Monday made inspection tours of Madaba and Diban districts in the south, during which he discussed with representatives of the public and private sectors there the labour and social development situation in the region.

Mr. Haj Hassan stressed that the Labour Ministry was keen on boosting social and voluntary work, developing local communities and making available suitable job opportunities throughout the Kingdom.

The minister began his tour with a visit to the home of Madaba Governor Rafeh Al Majali who briefed him on the district's employment and social services needs.

Mr. Haj Hassan said that the ministry had provided JD 135,270 in monthly aid to 543 needy families and rehabilitated 48 families, through various projects costing JD 15,000, in Madaba District.

He added that the ministry set up projects to assist 100 families in the district, in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

According to Mr. Haj Hassan, the ministry also made available 151 jobs and issued working permits to 2,569 foreign workers in the district during the past year.

The minister said that he would continue to visit other regions of the country to examine their social services and to help find jobs for citizens in these regions.

Hamzeh leaves for WHO symposium in Thailand

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh left Monday for Thailand to attend a symposium on the attainment of health for all people by the year 2000 — a goal set by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The WHO-sponsored symposium, due to last until Jan. 6, will examine primary health care in the participating countries and the exchange of health expertise and information among nations, Dr. Hamzeh said in a pre-departure statement.

Dr. Hamzeh, who is accompanied by a large delegation representing the ministries of information, health, agriculture and other government departments, said that the Health Ministry will adopt the resolutions of the symposium and set up committees to follow up on their implementation.

A total of 41 delegates are taking part in the symposium.

Jordan and Turkey to discuss transport ties

ANKARA (J.T.) — The Joint Jordanian-Turkish Committee on Transit and Transport opens meetings here Wednesday, to discuss a draft agreement on organising land transport and transit between the two countries.

Mansour Shamout, director of land transport at the Ministry of Transport leaves for Turkey today to lead Jordan's side to the talks.

In a statement prior to his departure, Mr. Shamout said that agreement has become essential in view of the growing number of trucks and other vehicles crossing Jordanian territory from Turkey on their way to Arab countries, as well as the

increase in Jordanian refrigerated trucks carrying Turkish agricultural produce to the Gulf states.

The three-day meeting comes in the wake of a protocol signed by Jordan and Turkey in Amman in November 1987. In the protocol on economic and trade cooperation, both sides agreed to work towards striking a balance of trade, since, at present, trade relations favour Turkey.

The protocol also provided for Turkey to import more Jordanian phosphates, potash, pharmaceutical products, and drip irrigation equipment to help correct the trade imbalance.

ARAMCO donates \$84,500 to West Bank charitable societies

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab American Oil Company (ARAMCO) has made a contribution of \$84,500 for the benefit of charitable societies and organisations in the occupied West Bank, according to an announcement by the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs.

The announcement said that the donation, to be channelled through the ministry, will go to societies and organisations in Jerusalem, Birzeit, Nablus and Ramallah.

ARAMCO is in the practice of making annual financial contributions to West Bank universities located in Bethlehem, Nablus,

Hebron, Birzeit and Gaza to help them carry out their educational programmes for Palestinians.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs announced that it is now conducting a study of the projects proposed within the Jordanian-sponsored five-year development plan for the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The ministry had set up a special team chaired by the ministry's under secretary, Mr. Ahmad Qatani, to draw up a list of priorities.

The committee has studied the obstacles which impeded the implementation of the first stage of

the government-sponsored plan and decided on measures to avoid similar problems in the process of executing the second stage, according to ministry sources.

The ministry has received proposals for projects, worth JD 90 million, and tenders worth JD 2,250,834 have been awarded for implementing health, educational, and social projects, according to the sources.

In addition, they said, teachers in government schools in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip last year received allowances on their salaries totalling JD 3,925,520.

Government purchases of locally-produced wheat, cereals rise sharply in 1987

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government paid JD 9.5 million for locally-produced wheat and other cereals in the 1986-1987 agricultural season, compared with JD 2.5 million in the previous season and JD 5.5 million in the 1984-1985 season, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture Salem Al Lawzi announced Monday.

He said that the purchases of wheat, lentils, barley, chick peas and animal feed were bought at higher rates than the current international market prices in an effort to encourage farmers to increase their production.

The purchases were conducted through a special committee set up in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply which carried out the transactions soon after the summer harvest.

Dr. Lawzi announced that, this year, the government will maintain the same policy and offer JD 144 for a tonne of wheat, JD 120 for a tonne of barley, JD 180 for a tonne of lentils, JD 170 for a tonne of chick peas and JD 180 for a tonne of maize.

According to Dr. Lawzi, Jordanian farmers produced a total of 120,000 tonnes of cereals in 1987, which was close to the Kingdom's annual average production. But, he noted, this production accounted for only 25 per cent of the total quantity of cereals consumed in the country.

He said that the ministry has recently leased land in the south-east of the country to local companies and investors to produce additional quantities of cereals, in order to reduce imports of these commodities.

In the past year, Jordan imported wheat from the United States and Saudi Arabia to make up for the shortage. According to Mr. Abdullah Hawamdeh, under secretary of the Supply Ministry, Jordan will ask the U.S. to supply

400,000 tonnes of wheat in 1988, up from 225,000 tonnes last year.

Jordao, whose population growth rate is among the highest in the world, consumes about 450,000 tonnes of wheat a year. Nearly 340,000 tonnes of wheat were purchased from Saudi Arabia in the past year.

Dr. Lawzi stressed that production of wheat and other cereals tops the Ministry of Agriculture's priorities, especially since wheat is a strategic commodity and essential to attaining food security for Jordan and the other Arab countries.

He said that the ministry will maintain the present agricultural patterns system which requires farmers to grow cereals on 25 per cent of their land, in order to facilitate the marketing of crops and ensure sufficient quantities of certain commodities for the local market.

Lukewarm public response for voter cards

(Continued from page 1)

Echoing remarks made by some legislators, a senior Jordanian official expressed his dissatisfaction with this "very-low" turnout. The official, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity, based his feeling of concern over the fact that between 55 to 60 per cent of the electorate voted in by-elections held in various parts of the Kingdom since 1984.

The official complained that citizens "keep demanding more public participation in decision-making. But, when they get a chance to express their rights, their attitudes tend to be geared towards a negative direction."

A potential candidate who also preferred his name be not mentioned termed as "depressing" the percentage of citizens who could actually vote if elections were to be called today.

For another well-informed source who was also very close to the previous parliamentary by-elections the figure is "a positive indication" in terms of determining the true turnout at any future general or by-election in Jordan.

"Those who took the trouble to process their cards display a sense of seriousness and commitment, thus indicating their willingness to show up at any given election," he said.

In a two-week voter registration period last May, 912,000 Jordanians were registered as eligible voters. The number stood at 827,353, a figure equal to 66.2 per cent to Jordan's estimated 1,250 million eligible voters, after the registered names were processed.

Following that procedure, the Interior Ministry launched a three-month drive for citizens to apply for voter cards. As a result of the lackluster response from the voters, Mr. Dajani extended the period for another two months ending Dec. 31.

Figures available to the Jordan Times indicate that 208,740 Jordanians (equal to 25.2 per cent of the electorate) applied for the card during the first three months of the process. The remainder applied during the last two months.

Amman governorate leads the field in terms of those who obtained their cards with 75,231 documents issued. It is followed by Irbid Governorate with 42,112; Balqa Governorate (42,111); Mafrq Governorate (20,958); Zarqa Governorate (18,758); Karak Governorate (12,384); Ma'an Governorate (5,476); and Tafleh Governorate (2,852).

Of the total figure, men accounted for 120,961 cards and women obtained 98,921.

The Interior Ministry is now planning to reopen the doors for

a similar process to allow more time for the electorate to obtain the card. Mr. Dajani is expected to announce his decision in the coming few days and the extension period is expected to end by December 1988.

Most analysts linked the decline in turnout registered during the period between Oct. 15 and Dec. 31 to the official announcement on Oct. 10 extending by no more than two years the present term of the Lower House.

The present four-year term was due to end on Jan. 15. Other observers attributed the eligible voters' apparent lack of interest in obtaining the identity to several factors, which included:

— A general absence among the majority of citizens of recognition of the importance of the document in the voting process.

— The whole electorate apparently needs reorientation as far as their democratic rights are concerned, commented a seasoned observer.

— The introduction of the card as a condition for casting votes is still a new concept in the life of the citizens. More time is needed for them to get accustomed to having the card.

"Usually, all new ideas and concepts introduced to any society need more time, effort and perseverance to gain eventual acceptance. Therefore, intense public awareness campaigns are needed to highlight the role of this card," said a sociologist from the University of Jordan.

Although the ministry relaxed a regulation by allowing any person to fill the application and submit two personal photographs on behalf of the voter and later return to collect them, a large number of people still complained from the bureaucratic

procedure involved in the issuance of the card.

Others referred to the amount of money involved for making personal photographs for the document and the difficult economic times faced by the majority of low-income citizens. They said that each citizen has to pay nearly JD 1 for a personal photograph. This could cause some problems for families with low incomes.

— The absence of any indication that the next elections will take place this year or in 1989. Seen in the light of the fact that the last general elections were held 21 years ago and that the constitution allows for a further extension of Parliament's term, the absence of a definite sign of impending elections contributes to a significant portion of the electorate being disinterested in acquiring the card.

Despite all arguments for and against the card, the majority of people interviewed by the Jordan Times — including officials and citizens from all walks of life — labelled the card as an important manifestation of Jordan's maturing political structure, including guarantees for organised elections.

Mr. Dajani and several others said they saw the card as a means of securing individual freedom in choosing their candidates, and more importantly, circumventing any acts of forgery and manipulation which were allegedly exercised by some voters during previous by-elections.

To many Jordanian citizens the card remains a reflection of the ongoing development and progress of the electoral process, which they say will certainly enhance and institutionalise healthy and positive democratic practices in the Kingdom.

Panel concludes review

(Continued from page 1)

Prince Hassan chaired the committee meeting Sunday and part of Monday's session during which the focus was on ways of promoting pan-Arab organisations affiliated to the Arab League in the light of reports prepared by a team of experts led by Dr. Salim Al Hoss, acting prime minister of Lebanon.

The committee, which grouped ministers of finance, economy and trade from eight Arab states, discussed in particular restructuring pan-Arab organisations and their financial problems.

The ministerial committee was led by Mr. Abdul Aziz Khalaf, the Algerian minister of finance.

Mr. Khalaf said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the committee would hold another meeting to finalise a report on its findings before the

CAEU's February meeting.

The participants in the meetings sent a cable of thanks and appreciation to King Hussein on Monday. In their cable they said the King's wise directives confirmed His Majesty's keenness on boosting joint Arab action.

They also sent a similar cable of thanks to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and another to Prime Minister Zaid Rifai.

Members of the committee later began leaving Amman for home.

In a statement before his departure, Dr. Hoss said that at the meeting King Hussein pledged to pursue efforts with Arab leaders for support for pan-Arab organisations in a manner that would ensure their success. Dr. Hoss was seen off by Minister of Planning Taher Kanazan.

JD 45m in income taxes collected in 1987; revenues expected to increase this year

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Income Tax Department disclosed on Monday that it collected JD 45,335,324 in revenues in 1987. The figure constituted a decrease of around JD 6 million from the revenues of 1986.

But according to Income Tax Department Director Salman Tarawneh, the "decline" resulted partly from a preplanned government policy to encourage investments, as well as from a decline in local revenues.

Speaking to local reporters at a press conference, Mr. Tarawneh also announced that the department was determined to increase its revenues to reach JD 55 million this year. He explained that the combination of negative economic factors and positive government policies led to a decline in income tax revenues last year.

First of these factors was the government's tax exemptions for investments in areas of production and real estate rentals.

According to the new Income Tax Law, 50 per cent of the rental taxes are exempted in the Amman governorate, while the rate is 30 per cent in other areas.

The government's policies to encourage investment included tax exemptions on the exports and on the income taxes of newly-established productive projects.

Mr. Tarawneh said that his department was satisfied with the government's policies "since they will eventually lead to an increase in local revenues."

As a result of the government's policies, however, many banks and companies started investing in areas that are included under

the tax exemption category, and consequently, the contribution of share-holding companies to income tax revenues declined.

A statement distributed by the department to journalists showed that while the share-holding companies contributed 52 per cent of the total national income tax revenues in 1986, their share decreased to 46.3 per cent last year.

But government policies were not the only cause for the decline, as the worldwide and the regional recessions had negative effects on the Jordanian economy. Mr. Tarawneh also noted that besides this "slow pace" of economic development, there were other internal factors which affected the amount of local revenues.

Most important among the internal factors was the collapse or foundering of about 50 money exchange firms, the mergers of a number of companies to salvage failing firms and, finally, a general decline in the revenues of financial institutions and commercial banks.

However, he said, prospects look better for this year. He added that available reports and information indicated that economic activity has increased during 1987. "This activity will, in turn, reflect itself on the local revenues and, consequently, on the national income tax this year," he predicted.

Mr. Tarawneh agreed that the estimate for this year's national tax revenues was rather ambitious, but said that the department was determined to continue improving its collection methods and developing its human and material resources.

He said that the department aimed at "broadening the base of the citizens included by the income tax." Asked if that implied new income tax categories, Mr. Tarawneh said that there were no legal changes involved. "We shall achieve our aim by simply applying the law correctly," Mr. Tarawneh explained that the department seeks to achieve this objective by increasing its field surveys on citizens' incomes.

According to the department's statement, the Governorate of Amman, where most of the country's population and business activities are concentrated, contributed 71 per cent of the national income tax in 1987.

The statement also revealed that only 33.4 per cent of the individuals and share-holding companies declared incomes subjected to taxation last year. "This clearly reflected decline in incomes," Mr. Tarawneh said.

According to the national Income Tax Law, taxation starts at 50 fils for each dinar starting from a JD 83 monthly salary, but it increases and could reach as high as 55 per cent of a monthly income that exceeds JD 6,000.

The law, however, stipulates that individuals should not be taxed more than 45 per cent of their income if it reached JD 5,000 or more.

Cabinet endorses livestock importation policy

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet has endorsed recommendations by a special committee it had set up to design a new policy for importing livestock, mainly sheep, from neighbouring Arab countries.

The committee had recommended that limited numbers of live sheep should be imported for meat production only through official border posts and within conditions to be set by Ministry of Agriculture.

It said that the importer should pay JD 8 as tax on each head of sheep and that no more than 100,000 heads should be imported during 1988.

The committee said in its report to the government that no sheep should be imported, under any circumstances, for raising in the Kingdom, in order to protect the interests of sheep breeders

and to avoid losses resulting from low prices of sheep.

The committee also recommended that badia police issue special permits to bedouins roaming about with their grazing sheep, allowing them to cross into neighbouring country's territories for this purpose, in implementation of previously concluded agreements between Jordan and these bordering countries.

In addition, the committee suggested allowing sheep breeders from Iraq and Saudi Arabia to cross with their sheep into Jordanian pasture territory, within a defined margin near the border, provided that they leave with their animals later on.

The recommendation added that badia police should report to the Ministry of Agriculture about these movements and on locations for grazing.

The committee comprises: Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud, Minister of Interior Rajai Dajani and Brigadier Al Sharif Fawwaz Zaben Abdullah, commander of the badia police.

In the meantime, the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply announced that it has so far awarded two contractors permits to import fresh meat. The ministry's under secretary, Abdullah Al Hawamdeh, said that the first contract was awarded two months ago, while the other was awarded recently and allowed for the importation of 10,000 tonnes of sheep meat before the end of January.

Mr. Hawamdeh said that the importation of meat, which had stopped during the Christmas and New Year's holidays, will resume on Wednesday.

Palestinians resume violent anti-Israeli protests

(Continued from page 1)

stumbled and fell back 50 metres when the wind turned and a demonstrator threw a tear-gas bomb back in their midst.

No casualties seemed to have occurred on either side before reporters were ordered away by officers and the demonstrators were dispersed with the help of rubber bullets.

Sunday's killing of Haniya Suleiman Zarawneh sparked off new tensions and Palestinians

shrugged off as irrelevant the army's suspension of an officer and a soldier pending an investigation into the shooting. The young woman was shot in the chest while washing laundry.

Arabs and Israelis said no one was hurt in protests in nearby Ramallah and Al Bireh or at the Jalazoun, Qalandia and Amari refugee camps in the same area.

Trials of Arab protesters continued in the occupied areas, where 186 of the 1,200 people detained in last month's demon-

strations have been released without trial in recent days in an apparent bid to calm the situation.

Military sources said prosecutors had brought a total of 400 indictments against more than 500 suspects since the protests began on Dec. 9.

About half the suspects were convicted after "confessing," the sources said. The trials of the others had been delayed so further "evidence" could be collected.

The Israeli army said on Sunday it would expel nine Arab activists and the prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, defended the move.

In a radio interview, Shamir defended the planned expulsions as the maximum punishment available for worst offenders. "We use it for people who are incorrigible," Shamir said. "All those who stand to be expelled already have spent years in prisons, and after leaving prison, they continue their incitement and fanning of flames."

The four people from Gaza vowed to fast until their release or until their death in protest against the orders, attorneys said. Lengthy appeals to a military review board and Israel's high court could delay the expulsions.

In Kuwait, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Sunday he had asked Egypt, Jordan and Syria to block the planned Israeli expulsion of nine Palestinians.

"I have asked the Egyptians, Jordanian and Syrian brethren to close their borders to prevent Israelis from carrying out their conspiracy of deporting the Palestinians," Mr. Arafat told reporters as he left Kuwait at the end of a two-day visit.

King confers with Kaufman

(Continued from page 1)

in the region except through an international conference to be held under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of all concerned parties and the permanent members of the Security Council.

Mr. Kaufman briefed Mr. Rifai on his visit to the occupied territories.

The prime minister told the visitor that he expected more violent actions to take place in the Israeli occupied territories if Israel pursues its rejection of an international peace conference.

Mr. Kaufman said Sunday that the British Labour Party supported the idea of the conference.

Mr. Kaufman, who ends his visit to Jordan on Wednesday, visited the Baqaa refugee camp on Sunday.

Mr. Kaufman also met Monday with the speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Akef Al Fayed, who reiterated Jordan's commitment to its call for the conference and voiced Jordan's deploration of Israel's repressive measures against the Palestinian

people.

Mr. Fayed also called for an end to the Gulf war and the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and for imposing an arms embargo on Iran for its refusal to accept the resolution.

Mr. Kaufman praised Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the Palestine problem and its efforts for a peaceful settlement.

Mr. Kaufman said that the major obstacle to convening the conference was Israel's intransigence. He said the United States should convince Israel for the need for the conference.

He said that his views and those of Jordan were identical on this subject.

Mr. Kaufman expressed deep regret over Israel's repressive measures against the Palestinian people and said that the majority of the Israeli people oppose their government's policies in this regard.

Mr. Kaufman also called for an end to the Gulf war and urged Iran to accept Resolution 598 and end the conflict with Iraq.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Mohammad meets with Rifai

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Monday evening met with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai at Mr. Rifai's office.

Omani defence minister departs

AMMAN (Petra) — The Omani minister of state for defence affairs, Mr. Mutaseem Ibn Hmoud Al Bousaidi Monday left Amman, ending a three-day visit to Jordan during which he met with His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and senior officials. He also visited a number of military positions in the country. The Omani minister was seen off upon his departure by Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, a number of senior military officers and the Omani Ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Bashir Ibn Salim Al Faraj.

Phosphate production hits record high

AMMAN (Petra) — Phosphate production by the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) hit a record high during 1987, as it reached 6,800,950 tonnes. This amount marked an increase of 551,727 tonnes over 1986 production, according to JPMC sources. The 1987 production, the sources added, was 1.5 per cent higher than what was scheduled in the company's production plan.

Islamic chamber of commerce to meet

AMMAN (Petra) — The Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce will take part in the meetings of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry to be held in Cairo on Jan. 9. During the six-day meeting, the participants will discuss the chamber's activities in 1987, promoting trade exchange among Islamic states and setting up joint investment projects. They will also discuss forming regional committees to implement the Islamic boycott of Israel and supporting the Palestinians in the occupied territories. Jordan is one of the chamber's founding states.

BA launches new club services

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Over 120 seasoned business travellers were at hand at the Marriott Hotel Monday for the unveiling of British Airways (BA) array of new services and amenities for discerning frequent flyers.

BA's Club World and Club Europe services, which were introduced on all the company's routes this morning, include a range of new services on the ground and in the air, including

priority check-in and reservations, enhanced lounges and baggage allowances, separate club class sections on the planes, new sleeper seats with sliding head and foot rests, dedicated crews and service, course-by-course meals and complementary wash-bags and slippers.

These are only a few of the amenities which BA's regional manager, Mr. Eric Burdon, said were designed "as new marks of respect for the business traveller."

Amman governorate leads the field in terms of those who obtained their cards with 75,231 documents issued. It is followed by Irbid Governorate with 42,112; Balqa Governorate (42,111); Mafrq Governorate (20,958); Zarqa Governorate (18,758); Karak Governorate (12,384); Ma'an Governorate (5,476); and Tafleh Governorate (2,852).

Of the total figure, men accounted for 120,961 cards and women obtained 98,921.

The Interior Ministry is now planning to reopen the doors for

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Israel's devious tactics fail

PRIME Minister Zaid Rifai's clear denial of Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' allegation that there is "a document of understanding" between Israel and Jordan on the modalities for an international peace conference on the Middle East lays to rest all the sinister speculations propagated by Israel about the existence of this notorious "document." When asked by the BBC and the Washington Post about this so-called "document of understanding," Mr. Rifai answered point blank: "No. There is no such document." The prime minister went on to say that the U.S. was, repeat, was, interested in the peace conference and had started discussing with Jordan and Israel the modalities, role and authority of such a conference, but that the whole exercise never came to fruition.

What is equally alarming is Mr. Rifai's declaration that all such contacts between the U.S. and the parties concerned had ceased, and that there are now no new developments with regard to the international peace conference.

Why, then, did Israel, through its foreign minister, choose the beginning of the new year to sow suspicion about Jordan's real intentions and stand with regard to the peace process and the international conference idea? There is but one answer to this cheap Israeli tactic; namely, having failed to hudge Jordan from its clear course on the peace process, Israel has decided that it is time now to spark discord between the concerned Arab parties.

Israel's political acrobatics aim first and foremost to undermine Jordan and its honourable stance in the future course of the peace process, which is based on Arab summit resolutions as reaffirmed in the recent Amman summit. It appears that Israel views Jordan and its unambiguous position of principle as a main obstacle to its designs on the Arab territories, especially the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But Jordan will not succumb to Israeli tricks and false temptations, and will pursue the elusive peace process with all the concerned Arab parties, in a spirit of harmony and accord, as dictated by the Amman extraordinary Arab summit. Israel should cease to entertain any illusions about driving wedges between the Arab parties, as the Arab World is now beyond falling prey to any such designs.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Jordan reaffirms stand

IN an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation and the Washington Post Prime Minister Zaid Rifai reiterated Jordan's stand with regard to the Middle East issue, efforts for a just settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 which aims to put an end to the Gulf war. Mr. Rifai also tackled the outcome of the extraordinary Arab summit meeting held in Amman in November and the Arab agreement and consensus on the means of dealing with problems plaguing the Arab Nation. The summit resolutions constitute the framework for pan-Arab action in the face of challenges and common dangers.

Continued Israeli occupation of Arab territory and Israel's inhuman practices have led to the recent upsurge in Arab resistance and a rejection of Israel's evil policies and plans. Mr. Rifai was keen to refer to these facts. He voiced Jordan's support for the uprising in the face of arbitrary measures on the part of the Israeli occupation authorities who continue to exercise all forms of ill practices against the Arab population. The prime minister pointed to Israel's continued disregard of international principles and laws and its continued drive to evict the Arab people from their homeland. The prime minister also referred to Israel's adamant position and its rejection of the idea of an international conference which is designed to establish permanent peace in the Middle East.

Al Dustour: Israel is dodging truth

PRIME Minister Zaid Rifai has refuted statements given by the Israeli foreign minister Shimon Peres, on a so-called "document of understanding with Jordan on peace talks. The prime minister made it clear that Jordan has been seeking an international conference because it adheres firmly to its national and pan-Arab commitments and Arab consensus. Jordan has acquired wide support for the idea of an international conference as the only chance for establishing durable peace in the Middle East.

Jordan, which discussed details of this conference with the Reagan administration, had no need for reaching the alleged understanding with Israel behind the back of the United Nations which is responsible for holding the proposed conference and achieving peace in accordance with Security Council resolutions. It is no secret that Israel's rejection of the conference idea has been obstructing peace based on justice and right. It should be noted also that U.S. hesitation towards holding this conference and the double dealings by the U.S. administration were instrumental in encouraging the Israelis to adhere to their adamant and rejectionist stand. Jordan is used to facing many of Israel's falsehoods, but there is no alternative for the Jewish state to facing the truth at the end.

Sawt Al Shaab: A call on world community

ISRAEL'S acts of terrorism which now assumed unprecedented proportions should not go unheeded by the international community. Israel has been practising all forms of repressions, including killing, against the Arab population in the occupied territories in a bid to stifle the spirit of resistance which had exploded in the Arab regions. It is true that resisting occupation is a legitimate and natural act by the oppressed people but Israel's practices and evil doings should not go unheeded or pass unnoticed specially as its practices had been condemned by peace-loving nations and world organisations.

We call on all honourable people in the Arab World and the international community to stop Israel from deporting the Arab youths who rose against oppression imposed on them in their own homeland. The Arab Nation should not suffice itself with deploring Israel's actions but should take practical steps to deter Israel from committing further atrocities.

Mubarak's Gulf tour underscores Egypt's return

By Maurice Guindi

The Associated Press



Hosni Mubarak

CAIRO — President Hosni Mubarak is touring six Arab states next week to strengthen a diplomatic reconciliation and seek consensus on the region's hottest issues, the Iran-Iraq war and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Egyptian officials said such a consensus would strengthen Mubarak's position when he visits Washington in late January for talks with President Ronald Reagan and other leaders.

Mubarak's Jan. 9-16 tour will take him to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

All except Oman restored diplomatic ties with Cairo in November after an eight-year break caused by Egypt's treaty with Israel in 1979. They were among nine Arab League members who resumed relations after the Nov. 8-11 Arab summit in Amman. After that summit, league members were free to restore individual relations with Egypt. Oman did not sever relations with Egypt in 1979.

One Egyptian official said the tour will show Iran that Egypt, the strongest Arab military power, will support its Arab brothers around the Gulf against Iranian threats. The official spoke on condition of anonymity.

All countries on Mubarak's

itinerary border the Gulf, and Kuwait has been the target of at least seven Iranian missile attacks in recent months.

Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid told members of the ruling National Democratic Party this week that Egypt "considers its own security part of the security of the Gulf states and is keen to preserve stability in this vital region."

Government sources said, however, that Egypt was not prepared to supply Gulf Arabs with combat troops but would be willing to make available arms and know-how, such as instructors and advisers.

Despite the lack of diplomatic relations, Egypt already has provided Iraq more than \$1.5 billion

worth of arms since the war began in 1981.

Makram Mohammad Ahmed, editor of weekly Al Mussawar and a government insider, termed Mubarak's tour "a peace mission" designed to deter Iran.

"In supporting Arab rights in the Gulf, Egypt wants Iran to realise that Arab-Persian dialogue must be conducted on a sound political and Islamic basis and that what has been happening on the battlefield will not solve any problem," Ahmad wrote.

Gulf Arabs and Egypt support last July's U.N. Security Council resolution calling for a ceasefire, troop withdrawals and Iranian-Iraqi peace talks. They favour international military sanctions against Iran unless it cooperates.

Also on Mubarak's agenda is the Arab-Israeli conflict and the so far unsuccessful effort to convene an international peace conference to solve it.

More than two weeks of Palestinian protests in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip have underscored the need for a settlement.

Government sources said Cairo will continue to follow its treaty with Israel despite opposition by some Arab states.

"We never apologised for the treaty and we don't now, after the diplomatic boycott has ended," a diplomatic source said.



Nevertheless, Egypt has sharply condemned Israel's crackdown on the Palestinian protests.

But sources said no diplomatic sanctions are planned beyond an official protest Cairo already has made to Israel.

Rifaat Al Mahgoub, the parliament speaker and a senior member of Mubarak's party, outlined the position after an opposition demand that diplomatic ties with Israel be cut or at least that Egypt's ambassador be with-

drawn from Tel Aviv and Israel's expelled from Cairo.

"The issue is not one of recalling an ambassador or expelling one," Mahgoub told the People's Assembly. "Our aim is to convene an international conference, and we presently should not take any measures that would give the other side (Israel) a chance to block such a conference. We should exercise restraint."

The Israeli government already is divided on the conference

issue. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir strongly opposes the idea.

Government sources said Mubarak wants to convince the United States of an urgent need for it to be more actively involved in organising an international conference.

They said the Egyptian president hopes he will take to Washington two strong cards that will sway Reagan: The turmoil in the occupied territories and a common Arab position.

Reagan looks for new arms pact amid domestic problems

By William Scally

Reuter

PALM SPRINGS, California — Ronald Reagan enters the last year of his presidency with hopes of signing a new U.S.-Soviet arms control treaty but facing uncertainty over the economy, the dollar and his relations with Congress.

During a week-long holiday ending on Sunday, Reagan relaxed, played golf, signed a few bills into law and turned his back on a 1987 marked by political and personal blows and an historic summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

His hopes for new progress on arms control were expressed in a taped New Year television message to the Soviet people.

Describing the intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) treaty signed at last month's Washington summit as "only a beginning," Reagan said that perhaps a treaty having long-range strategic missiles could be signed at a new summit in the spring.

At the same time however, Reagan reaffirmed his commitment to his Star Wars missile defence programme which is bitterly opposed by Moscow.

Meanwhile, the problems of the dollar intruded during Reagan's California break. His spokesman was forced to respond to a new dive in the dollar's value by restating that the administration wanted a stable exchange rate and believed further decline "could be counterproductive."

The statement had little effect among traders, who apparently have no faith in Washington's ability to deal with the huge U.S. trade and federal budget deficits.

The old year saw the administration and Congress reach an agreement on measures to reduce the budget deficit — but only after the jolt of the Oct. 19 stock market crash and weeks of agonising negotiations. Many commentators scorned it as woefully inadequate.

One of Reagan's first jobs in the new year will be to submit a budget for the 1989 fiscal year starting Oct. 1.

Aides say they expect the administration and leading members of Congress to continue to work together on the budget.

But there was no sign of any new approach by Reagan that might change the way of doing business with Congress — and Congress, with its eye fixed on November elections, was not likely to face up to any politically unpalatable decisions.

The stock market crash was blamed in part for the largest plunge in six years of the government's chief barometer of economic trends.

Some economists saw the 1.7 per cent drop in leading economic indicators as a warning of economic troubles ahead. But White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater called it a "blip on the screen" and predicted that economic expansion would continue.

Reagan also faces further struggles with the Democratic-controlled Congress over aid to the U.S.-backed contra rebels in Nicaragua.

Congress voted \$8.1 million in additional aid to the contras through February. But Reagan has made clear he wants further aid to maintain the rebels in case sputtering peace talks with the Nicaraguan government break down.

Reagan's aides deny that the president is entering his eighth year at the White House as a lame duck and say that he will be active, and fully involved.

He is expected to make several foreign trips, including one to Moscow for his fourth summit with Gorbachev.

Public opinion polls showed a marked improvement in the president's ratings since the low point of the Iran-contra scandal earlier in 1987 and Reagan won plaudits for his handling of the December summit.

But overall 1987 was a politically damaging year. The scandal over the secret sale of arms to Iran and diversion of profits to the Nicaraguan rebels was aired at exhaustive length and Reagan's grasp of his job was seen as shaky.

Two of Reagan's nominations to the supreme court collapsed, to the president's acute embarrassment, before he named the uncontroversial Anthony Kennedy.

Reagan lost much of his once



Ronald Reagan

formidable clout in Congress.

The year was marked by the departure of senior members of his administration, including his old friend Caspar Weinberger, who resigned as defence secretary. More resignations are likely as the administration nears its end and replacements will be seen as mere caretakers.

Reagan has also been hit by personal troubles. His wife Nancy had a cancerous breast removed in October and her mother, with whom she was close, died a few days later.

The President listed his priorities in his first Saturday radio address of the new year when he called for early Senate action on Judge Kennedy's nomination to the supreme court and on ratification of the INF treaty.

Kennedy is seen as certain to get overwhelming approval and the INF treaty — the first ever to banish an entire class of nuclear weapons — seems headed for ratification.

The two politically important votes would give Reagan a good start to 1988.

Arabs slam Israel's expulsion move

(Continued from page 1)

Egypt was said to have warned the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, that expulsions could have grave repercussions.

The PLO urged Egypt to close Israel's embassy in Cairo and expel the ambassador.

Five of the Palestinians ordered expelled are from the West Bank and four from Gaza. Israel's announcement on Sunday brought quick criticism from its closest ally, the United States.

The Gaza four have begun an indefinite fast in protest at the expulsions.

Israel says the nine to be expelled may appeal to the military review board and high court.

"We are against the expulsions and Israel was informed of the grave repercussions of such a move," an Egyptian official told Reuters in Cairo.

Egypt's ambassador to Tel Aviv, Mohammad Bassiouni, speaking on behalf of President Hosni Mubarak, warned Mr. Shamir on Sunday against steps that might worsen matters in the occupied territories.

Egypt also refused to receive an Israeli minister in Cairo to discuss the protests in the occupied territories and condemned Israeli practices against Palestinians there, a Kuwaiti newspaper reported on Monday.

Osama Al Baz, presidential political advisor, was quoted in the daily Al Siyassah as saying:

"Egypt has refused an Israeli minister who wanted to come to Cairo to explain the situation in the occupied territories."

Dr. Baz gave no further details but condemned Israeli practices in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip: "Israel behaves like South Africa... if it wants the friendship of the Egyptian people it has to stop its threats against the Arab people."

Kuwait expressed anger on Tuesday at the Israeli expulsion decision and said there were plans to fight the move.

Foreign Minister Sheikh Sahab

Al Ahmad Al Sabah told reporters Israel was aiming to "empty the Arab land of its Arab residents."

He said there had been contacts both in the Arab World and outside the region to "confront the Zionist decision and to try to abort it in order to keep the Palestinians in their lands."

He did not elaborate but said Kuwait was concerned about the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and would do all it could to help the Palestinians.

In Beirut, the Fateh Revolu-

tionary Council group led by Abu Nidal issued a statement that any expulsion would "allow us to strike against any Zionist target wherever it is located... we will spare no target in our ruthless reply."

Lebanon's President Amin Gemayel said last week the Lebanese had "suffered a lot from the Middle East problem" and opposed the expulsion of any Palestinians to Lebanon.

In the United Arab Emirates, a government official who declined to be named said the expulsion plan was "repugnant."

Mellor says no peace without Palestinian rights

(Continued from page 1)

that have been here as just organised externally, or just a few people in the PLO is to totally underestimate the misery... of the people here," he said.

He went on to predict more bloodshed unless Palestinians were allowed to govern themselves.

"There has to be self-determination because the violence that there has been in the last few weeks is going to continue as long as this area remains in a state of limbo," he said.

On Sunday, Mr. Mellor called on Israel to end its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and said Britain would press for an international Middle East peace conference.

Mr. Mellor toured the Al Aqsa Mosque and told Muslim leaders he would stress British support for an international conference when he met Israeli officials later this week.

"Our concern is that people in the occupied territories should have a decent future and they cannot have a decent future under the present arrangements... the status quo is not an option," he said.

"Sustained and long term peace has to, in the end, turn on self-determination for the people in the occupied territories without which there can be no peace in this region," he told Reuters before meeting the Muslim clerics.

Mr. Mellor said his trip had been planned well in advance of

the protests in the occupied territories but added that the bloodshed lent new urgency to the need for a political solution.

"What has happened in recent weeks has brought into sharper focus the need for an international conference which would enable the various states in the region and the Palestinians to discuss their differences," he said.

Mr. Mellor, who is due to meet Mr. Shamir on Tuesday, said Britain saw no danger to Israeli security from the conference proposal.

"An international peace conference does not threaten the security of Israel, it actually enhances it, because it means that Israel will actually have... a right to a future without relying always on the point of a gun," he said.

Italy may change the rules of the political game

A more open and competitive Italian economy is leading to renewed demands for constitutional reform, reports John Wyles.

ROME — Ciriaco de Mita, leader of Italy's Christian Democrats, says that the country's political system is facing "catastrophe if nothing is done". Bettino Craxi, former prime minister and Socialist Party leader, says that Italians will not go on accepting impotent governments. Alessandro Natta, secretary of the Communist Party, observes that the political and institutional system is "exhausted and degraded".

These statements, all made in the last few weeks, imply an unusually wide measure of agreement between men more accustomed in recent years to emphasising their differences. Suddenly, they seem to be at one in agreeing that the rules of the Italian political game as it has been played for the last 40 years will no longer do.

La Grande Riforma is once again a live subject in Italy hardly surprising in the wake of a recent unnecessary political crisis, a new rash of corruption charges against prominent politicians, the lowest turnout in a referendum and public transport strikes which the government has been powerless to curb.

Periodically over the last 10 years, senior politicians have lamented the "gap" between the people and the institutions and given warnings that the roots of the fragile flower of Italian democracy need a nourishing dose of reform and good government.

Many observers of the Italian scene agree with the U.S. political scientist Joseph Lapalombara, who argues in a new book that reform is unlikely because it would threaten the parties' extensive control of the economy and institutions. However, this may underestimate the pressures pushing them, however reluctantly, in the direction of change.

While undoubtedly a conservative people, Italians are also highly competitive and the opening up of their economy in terms of trade and investment is producing a generation of managers, union leaders and even politicians more concerned about how their country compares with the leading performers on the international stage.

For these groups, the European Community's 1992 deadline for completing the internal market is a key date for modernisation affecting industry, banking and finance. Above all, a formidable legislative output will be required from a parliamentary system which did not manage to convert into law even half the government's legislative proposals between 1983 and 1987.

While the demand for coherent government and legislative efficiency is strongest from a healthy, if preoccupied, private sector, there is also a more diffuse but identifiable clamour from society at large for changes in the "other Italy". This is not the south, but the range of public-sector services from health to railways, from the post to urban transport which are

wasteful, inefficient, frequently corrupt and subordinated to the control of political parties.

Obviously, it is too much to expect of Italian political parties that they sign a self-denying ordinance which would roll back their power, influence and wealth. But there are glimmers of agreement over ends which could curb the worst excesses of "partitocracy".

One is that the executive needs strengthening. Another is that governments do not change every six or 10 months. Another is that the legislative system needs to be streamlined and made more efficient.

That these are now common denominators among the leaders of the three parties which took nearly 75 per cent of the vote in the June elections, is encouraging. That the Communists' central committee, hitherto silent on the subject, has decided to give political reform a higher priority than trying to force a "left-alternative" to the present five-party governing coalition is even more so.

Among other things, both de Mita and Craxi will be competing for Communist support for their markedly different approaches to political reform.

If there is to be any progress, it is unlikely to be ambitious. As a first step, the parties may be able to agree on changes in parliamentary procedures and practices which would speed up a disastrously slow legislative process. They may also agree to abolish the secret vote which on too many occasions enables the governing majority to melt away over important pieces of legislation.

The bigger issues, such as electoral reform and refashioning parliament so as to do away with the time-wasting duplication of legislative effort, could take longer.

While Craxi may never succeed in converting others to his vision of a directly-elected president of the republic, he already has some support for a five per cent voting threshold which, in the last election, would have locked out 10 of the parties currently enjoying parliamentary representation.

He has suggested trying this as an experiment in the 1989 European Parliament elections along with the introduction of single-member constituencies.

De Mita has bobbed about on detail but favours alternative coalitions lining up before an election with the winner receiving a special premium to guarantee a comfortable majority of seats. The Communists want to abolish one house of parliament, introduce single-member constituencies and reduce the number of MPs.

Obviously, a formidable obstacle to agreement is the fear that one or other of the parties has more to gain or less to lose from political reform.

—Financial Times news feature.

Aseikhin, 'Uweinid and Kahf — Roman frontier forts in Jordan

Following article is the eighth and final part in a series in which the writer explores the ancient Umayyad castles and palaces in Jordan.

Text and photos
by Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

Qasr el-Aseikhin

ABOUT 15 kilometres as the crow flies to the north-east of Azraq fort is the dramatic, hill-top Roman fortlet of Qasr el-Aseikhin. It sits atop a steep, prominent limestone hill with a basalt cap which is visible from quite a distance.

The best way to reach the site is to take the paved road about 14 kilometres north of Azraq fort, and from there follow a dirt track for about eight kilometres to the base of the hill (a half-hour drive requiring a high-clearance, four-wheel drive vehicle).

The 23.5-metre-square fortlet still has walls standing 14 courses high in places, and several intact doorways and arches. The main gate in the south, flanked by two square rooms and topped by an arch, leads into a central courtyard surrounded by rectangular rooms on all sides.

There are standing arches in the north and west walls, and sections of the corbelled roof still in place. Due to its height and exposed position, Qasr el-Aseikhin is always very windy, and was built here because of the commanding view over the surrounding countryside.

Its founding date is not known precisely, and pottery collected at the site dates from the early and late Roman and late Byzantine periods. Dr. Tom Parker of North Carolina State University, a specialist in the eastern Roman

frontier, believes the hill top may have been used first by the Nabataeans in the 1st century A.D., as an observation post to monitor traffic in and out of Wadi Sirhan, though it is not known if the Nabataeans built the first structure on the site.

The fortlet was almost certainly used into the 7th century A.D., by a small contingent of soldiers who would have been in visual contact with their colleagues at Azraq.

Qasr el-Uweinid

Qasr el-Uweinid is another of the Roman forts which protected the mouth of Wadi Sirhan in the 3rd and 4th centuries A.D. It is located on a low basalt ridge overlooking Wadi 'Uweinid, 15 kilometres south-west of Azraq. It is about four kilometres north of the paved road to the Shaumari Wildlife Reserve, and can only be reached with a high-clearance, four-wheel-drive vehicle. Its role was to help guard the north-west outlet of Wadi Sirhan, and, like Qasr el-Aseikhin, it would have been in visual contact with the larger military garrison at Azraq fort.

The main fort is shaped like an irregular quadrangle, with a projecting bastion incorporating a small tower (about 8.5 metres square) at the south-west corner, where an entrance gate is located. Some scholars believe the main entrance was in the east wall.

The fort measures about 75x49x43x30 metres, and its thick enclosure wall still stands six courses high in places, best preserved on the west.



View into the interior of Qasr Al 'Aseikhin, showing walls, doors and a standing arch



General view into the interior of Deir el-Kahf

The central courtyard was surrounded on all sides by rooms, most of which, like the fort itself, were irregularly shaped. Inside the fort, immediately north-west of the entrance, are foundation remains of two circular structures, thought to be reservoirs.

The Latin-inscribed lintel which once stood above the entrance gateway is now on the ground just inside the gateway, below the internal tower. In association with this castellum, it mentions the Roman Governor of Arabia L. Marius Perpetuus, who held office around 200-202 A.D. Another inscription mentions two other officials (L. Annus Fabianus and M. Nonius

Arrius Mucianus), who served as "consules ordinarii" in the year 201 A.D. These inscriptions, coupled with the exclusively late Roman pottery collected at the site by Parker, dates the fort from around 200 A.D.

It was probably used until the late 3rd or early 4th century A.D., when it seems to have been abandoned suddenly, though many other Roman forts in the region continued in use. One inscription mentions the presence of a bath at Qasr 'Uweinid, but this has not been identified, as the site has never been excavated.

On the other side of Wadi 'Uweinid is a small tower some 12 metres square and standing six courses high in places, with outer and slightly higher inner walls still visible.

Deir el Kahf

About 45 kilometres due north of Azraq are the extensive remains of a major Roman fort at Deir el-Kahf ("the monastery of the caves"). The basalt fort (castellum) measures some 61 metres square, and has a main entrance in the east wall and three-story-high corner towers and interval towers on the north and west walls. The ground level rooms in the corner towers had mangers, and presumably served as stables. Two stories of rooms line the entire length of the exterior walls.

A pool outside the south-west corner was accessible from inside the fort through a small gate. An apsidal structure, thought to be a church, was located in the west side of the central courtyard, but has disappeared completely. Outside the fort were extensive remains of field walls, furrows, a reservoir guarded by a tower and other agricultural installations.

Pottery collected at the site by Dr. Tom Parker dates from the Roman, Byzantine, Umayyad and Ottoman periods. Several inscriptions in Greek and Latin suggest the fort was first built in 306 A.D., rebuilt between 367-376 A.D., and modified with the addition of the small external pool in the 5th century. This could be the site of the Roman fort of Spelunca, which means caves in Latin.



External view of 'Uweinid



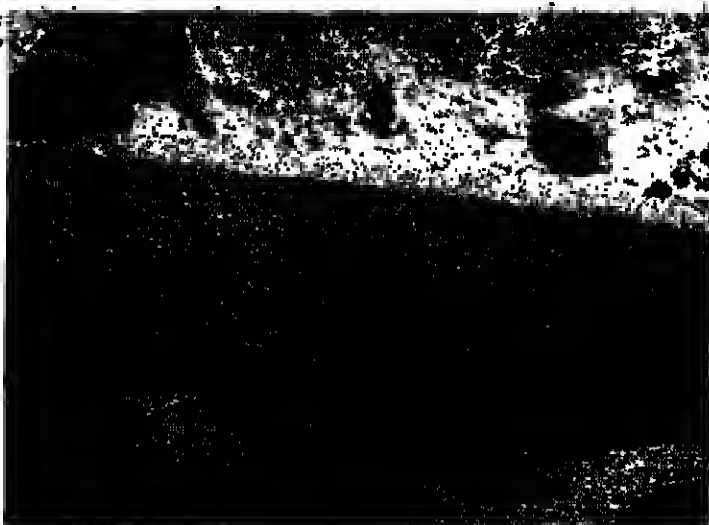
Roman columns re-used in recent years to form a doorway into an area used as a house at Deir el-Kahf



External view of the walls along the west side of Qasr 'Uweinid



The small tower across the wadi from the main fort at 'Uweinid



The inscribed lintel which once stood above the main entrance of Qasr 'Uweinid, now lying on the ground

Nouvelle cuisine is dead, long live home cooking

By Simon Haydon

Reuter

PARIS — Nouvelle cuisine, the culinary revolution which replaced rich creamy sauces with pureed vegetables and steamed fish, is dead, according to French chefs whose work is emulated around the world.

The health conscious new cookery which swept across France in the 1970s threw out cholesterol and calories, and put gourmet on a diet.

Exotic combinations such as duck with blackcurrants or salad with hot chicken livers were arranged artistically in tiny helpings.

But now nouvelle cuisine is making way for traditional cooking that may bring old favourites like potatoes, cabbage and wine and cream sauces back into fashion. There is an emphasis once again on regional specialities.

"There was a change about 10 years ago but it looks as if French cuisine is returning to what it was before then," says Jean Fleury, top chef at the restaurant Paul Bocuse, known as one of the finest in the world.

"The new tendency takes us back to our roots," Michel Troisgros, of the top-ranked Troisgros restaurant in Roanne, told Reuters.

But even the loudest critics of nouvelle cuisine admit it has left a lasting taste, and that it had a healthy influence on chefs. The Chateaufort food guide, one of dozens published in France, where cuisine is seen as an art form, said in its just published 1988 edition: "Everyone admits

that nouvelle cuisine is dead."

But the guide added that nouvelle cuisine meant that "visiting a restaurant no longer means being attacked by floury sauces, and fish are no longer massacred by being boiled endlessly."

All but the most diehard fans of the modern cuisine are giving up such controversial dishes as turbot with kiwi, and lobsters with mango.

Parisian restaurants were at the forefront of the nouvelle trend. Paul Bocuse, a renowned critic of nouvelle cuisine, said in 1982: "My latest meals in Paris make me think that a large load of kiwi fruits has crashed into a ship full of broccoli."

Most attribute the birth of nouvelle cuisine to Michel Guerard, who started with a humble bistro in Paris. Guerard originally christened his style *cuisine minceur* (slimmers' cookery), as it disposed of calorie-rich ingredients such as cream, oil, flour, sugar and butter and replaced them with the food's own juices.

Frying pans were thrown out as Guerard trained young chefs to steam, boil and poach. He presented dishes as though they were works of art, with each bean placed strategically to set off the adjacent slice of carrot.

Guerard rejected the extravagant cooking style of Marie-Antoine Carême and Auguste Escoffier, whose work in the 19th and 20th centuries formed the basis of French cooking, and made it famous around the world.

Carême produced a book in 1833 detailing more than 200 sauces that have remained at the

heart of the national cuisine, and was famed for laying dozens of dishes before banquet guests, who were known to collapse long before the end of the meal.

Escoffier's *Le Grand Culinnaire*, published in 1921, has remained the bible for generations of French chefs.

After World War II, Fernand Point, whose recipe for success was "butter, butter and more butter," became king of French cuisine. His restaurant, Chez Point, in Vieux half way between Paris and the French Riviera, was a stopping place for the rich and famous.

Point died in 1986, and to the horror of gourmets his revered restaurant has passed into the hands of a hotel chain.

Bocuse is now France's most famous living chef, and his restaurant on the outskirts of Lyon has become a shrine for food-lovers.

His chef, Fleury told Reuters: "For us there really has not been an old or a new cuisine. There has just been good cuisine."

Bocuse, one of the first French chefs to come out of his kitchen into the limelight, is rarely seen in the restaurant now, but still chooses fresh produce from Lyon market early every morning.

His restaurant mixes traditional dishes like fresh vegetable soup (a snip at 75 francs or \$13) "with complex concoctions like sea bass in pastry with lobster mousse and choron sauce (280 francs or \$50 a portion).

For food buffs, the sauce is a basic hearthside with tomato puree added.

Forty miles away, Troisgros' restaurant in the town of Roanne

offers nouvelle cuisine, with "finely sliced duck breast in sweet and sour rhubarb sauce" and "poached eggs with beluga caviar."

At 29 one of France's youngest grandmasters of cuisine, Michel Troisgros has travelled around the world studying cooking and his food has been influenced by foreign styles.

Both he and Fleury said stylistic Japanese cooking had heavily influenced nouvelle cuisine, and had become merged with French ideas.

Troisgros, who runs the restaurant with his father Pierre, acknowledged that he was returning to basics.

"I have worked with the greatest chefs and when I returned to Roanne I was too heavily influenced by them...I could be accused of taking ideas from all over the place, even if it was not consciously," he says.

"Today, I am beginning to find my way and finding the true value of regional cooking," said the man whose restaurant has earned the highest marks in virtually all of France's top food guides, including the *Mercure* Michelin guide and Gault Millau.

Neither of the chefs would be drawn on which restaurant they considered the best in France. "There's no such thing. There are those who make the best meat, the best fish, the best sauce or the best pastries, but no greatest restaurant."

But Troisgros conceded that Jamin, run by its owner Joel Robuchon in the fashionable 16th district of Paris, was widely considered the best.

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Soviets intend to join Seoul games — minister

FRANKFURT, West Germany (AP) — The Soviet Union's sports minister said Monday his country intends to take part in Summer Olympics in South Korea, and that a final decision is expected next week.

Marat Gramov told a news conference that the Soviet National Olympic Committee, which he heads, will meet Jan. 11 or 12 to consider the issue.

But he emphasized: "We do not intend to boycott the 1988 Seoul Olympics."

The Soviet statement appeared to clear the way for all Soviet Bloc countries to take part in the Summer Olympics in September.

East Germany and Hungary on Dec. 21 became the first Soviet Bloc countries to announce their participation. The official deadline for accepting invitations to the games is Jan. 17.

Gramov spoke at a start of a six-day visit to West Germany that will include talks with sports officials.

He said the Soviet National Olympic Committee had discussed very earnestly the question of taking part in the Seoul Games and that Soviet athletes were "seriously preparing" for both the winter and summer games.

The United States and many Western countries boycotted the 1980 Moscow Olympics in protest of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

All Soviet Bloc nations except Romania stayed away from the 1984 Los Angeles Summer Olympics, claiming they were not given sufficient security guarantees for their athletes.

Gramov said the problem of North Korea and its demands to host some of the events remained to be solved.

But he noted that International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Samaranch had said in a Soviet newspaper interview that the doors were open to more talks on the issue.

Curry demolishes Aquino in a 'semifinal' bout for WBC title

Rosi knocks out Thomas; prepared to face Curry

GENOA, Italy (Agencies) — Gianfranco Rosi, a 30-year-old Italian who is getting used to upset wins, retained the World Boxing Council (WBC) junior middleweight crown by knocking out U.S. challenger Duane Thomas early Monday.

Rosi said he was now set for another successful defence against Don Curry, the former king of the welterweights.

The Rosi-Curry bout will be held April 8, in Italy or in Las Vegas. The confident Italian said he was aware of his power following a convincing seventh-round K.O. and ready to fight and defeat any opponent.

Rosi, who had won the WBC crown Oct. 2 by a unanimous but surprising decision over Mexican bolder Lupe Aquino, charged after the fight with Thomas at the local indoor sports palace that "Americans tried to steal my

title, allowing Thomas to fight overweight."

Rosi and his party had claimed after the weigh-in that Thomas had failed to make the category limit and that U.S. matchmakers and WBC supervisors had ignored it.

"Luckily I foiled their attempts in the ring," said Rosi, who showed himself to be a faster boxer with better technique.

Thomas' dream to win back the title he had lost to Aquino last July faded after 50 seconds in the seventh round when he was hit by a combination of wild, powerful hooks which sent him hanging

across the ropes for the full count.

"I trained hard to improve the power of my punches and Thomas experienced it," Rosi told the Associated Press.

It possibly was the last world chance for Thomas, a 26-year-old from Detroit, Michigan, who suffered the third defeat of a professional career against 29 wins, 14 by K.O., and two losses.

Curry, who fought Aquino in a previous match considered a "semifinal" to Rosi's crown, achieved an unanimous but lackluster victory against the younger Mexican.

The 26-year-old "cobra" from Fort Worth, Texas, piled up an advantage in the 12-round bout through precise left hooks and combinations to the body which weakened Aquino.

Paris-Dakar racers set off along feared 'forgotten trail'

PARIS (R) — Competitors in the 10th Paris-Dakar motor Rally set off through shifting desert sands on Monday along the daunting Algerian "forgotten trail," billed as one of the most testing runs of the 13,000-km race.

The fifth stage of the rally, over 594 km from the desert town of El Oued to Hassi-Messaoud, is the first timed special run through the untracked wilderness of the Sahara. The race includes 8,000 km of special stages.

Organisers said the 585 competitors still in the event after four days would race over sand dunes for 250 km before reaching flat ground.

They said Monday's feared run

through virgin territory would knock at least 10 per cent of drivers out of the toughest Paris-Dakar Rally yet.

French favourite Patrick Zanardi, winner in 1985 and runner-up last year, was among Monday's competitors despite mechanical problems with his Range Rover on Sunday.

But 17 of the 602 cars, trucks and motorcycles which set off from Paris on January 1 have already abandoned the 20-day trek to the Senegalese capital Dakar, on Africa's Atlantic coast.

The Sahara desert is known to take a heavy toll on drivers, and several have died in the 10-year history of the race. It is common-

place for drivers to go missing for several days in the untracked regions of the Algerian Sahara.

Organisers rely on many of the participants dropping out before the halfway stage, when it is still possible to return to Algiers by tarmac road.

Otherwise the logistics of supplying competitors, journalists and support staff in some of the poorest and least equipped countries in the world would be impossible.

Organisers said 85 per cent of the 1988 race would be through terrain that had not been raced before. The race includes several stages run in previous rallies, through Tamanrasset, Namy, Timbuktu and Nouakchott.

Gullit outshines Maradona in Italian showdown

ROME (R) — European footballer of the year Ruud Gullit lived up to his image as the crown of Italian soccer on Sunday when he outshone the tired reigning "king" Diego Maradona in A.C. Milan's 4-1 rout of defending champions Napoli.

Dutchman Gullit, who was declared the continent's top players in Paris last week, inspired a brilliant Milan performance in which he made one goal and scored another while Maradona, back from Buenos Aires only 24 hours earlier, was in subdued form.

With most of the major European Leagues taking a midwinter break, Gullit's match-winning performance eclipsed Mexican Hugo Sanchez's brace in Real Madrid's 2-1 win over Barcelona as the highlight of the first weekend action in 1988.

"We showed we are title-winners," said Gullit. "We put infernal pressure on them — and that was the end on Napoli."

Napoli's Brazilian World Cup star Careca joined in the praise of an exciting match. "A great game," he said. "The best I've seen since I came to Italy... 90 minutes played all over the pitch without a minute's pause. Such a shame Napoli weren't in top form."

Turning the tide

The defeat, Napoli's first of the season, came after they had made the perfect start. Careca opened the scoring after 10 minutes, but his goal only stimulated Gullit whose dazzling footwork set up



Maradona

Angelo Colombo for a 20th minute equaliser.

Antonio Virdis put Milan ahead four minutes later and second-half goals from Gullit and Roberto Donadoni completed the scoring. A "Gullit cyclone" was the verdict of Italy's sporting press.

The win lifted Milan to second, ahead of Sampdoria on goal difference, but they remain three points behind leaders Napoli who have 21 points after 13 games.

Roma slipped from second to fourth after losing 1-0 at Fiorentina while Juventus' 2-2 draw with Turin neighbours Torino kept them in fifth place.

Rush strikes again

Juventus' Welsh striker Ian Rush claimed his first goal since Nov. 1 to secure a 1-0 win for the Zehras after Massimo Toppa and Tullio Gritti had put Torino



Rush

ahead, but it was later ruled to have been an own goal. Angelo Alessio scored Juventus' first goal.

In Spain, victories by Madrid's leading clubs Real and Atletico Madrid set up a gripping championship duel ahead in the remainder of the season, but left Barcelona's challenge in tatters.

Real stays on top

Defending champions Real Madrid maintained a four-point lead at the top with their win over Barcelona, both goals coming from Mexican international striker Hugo Sanchez, while Atletico

won 2-0 away to the Catalan city's club Espanol.

Real's Dutch coach Leo Beenhakker said: "The league is over for Barcelona. They are not the team they were two years ago. Their standard has dropped... I do not know why."

Barcelona's goal came from a penalty scored by their West German midfielder Bernd Schuster — the first penalty against Real Madrid this season.

Paulo Futre created Atletico's goals for Julio Salinas and Antonio Perra, who converted a penalty after Futre was fouled. Futre said afterwards: "We're chasing Real. Four points are four points. But the season is long and Atletico are getting better every day."

Madjer scores debut

Rabah Madjer, the Algerian international loaned to Valencia by Porto of Portugal, made a goal-scoring debut for his new club in their 2-1 defeat by Athletic Bilbao.

He was not missed at all by the world club champions, however. Porto continued their unbeaten march at the top with an awesome 7-0 away win at Rio Ave. Captain Fernando Gomes scored three goals and also lifted a penalty over the bar. Rio Ave were previously unbeaten at home.

Cherkasov wins boys' 18 title

PORT WASHINGTON, New York (AP) — Top-seeded Andre Cherkasov of the Soviet Union beat countryman Vladimir Petrusenko 4-6, 6-1, 6-0 Sunday to win the boys' 18 title at the Port Washington International Junior Tennis Championships. Unseeded Nana Mujagi of Japan upset number three Elena Brukovets of the Soviet Union for the girls' 18 title.

Cuban volleyballers shower Canada's net

LONDON (AP) — Cuba, a leading candidate for the gold medal at this summer's Olympic games in Seoul, crushed Canada 15-6, 15-3, 15-9, to win a six-team women's international volleyball tournament at the Alexandria Pavilion Sunday.

Although the final was not as one-sided as the scoreline suggested, the Cubans were in control throughout with Marie Luis an attacking power at the net, backed by some excellent blocking by newcomer Regla McKenzie.

The United States Ambassadors' team, chosen from various U.S. clubs, took third place by beating South Korea 15-9, 15-11, 15-13, avenging a defeat earlier in the competition.

The Netherlands whipped England 15-6, 15-1, 15-2 to capture fifth place.

Dutch soccer pro resigns

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — Johan Cruyff, the greatest soccer player in Dutch sports history, on Monday submitted his resignation as coach of Ajax of Amsterdam, Dutch television reported.

Cruyff, 40, announced his decision to his players after an afternoon training session at the Ajax Stadium in Amsterdam, according to the television report.

Ajax President Tom Harmsen denied any knowledge of the reported resignation, Dutch television said.

Cruyff's reported move came as the team, which he has coached for two and a half years, had a disappointing first-half performance in the 1987-88 season.

Cruyff had reportedly been seeking a new two-year contract, as well as complete hiring authority for the team.

National Hockey League (NHL) standings

Wales Conference

Patrick Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New York Islanders	20	14	3	43	150	126
Philadelphia Flyers	19	15	5	43	133	139
New Jersey Devils	18	16	4	41	129	135
Washington Capitals	18	17	5	41	132	122
Pittsburgh Penguins	16	16	7	39	149	152
New York Rangers	15	19	5	35	153	149

Adams Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Montreal Canadiens	22	10	9	53	150	123
Boston Bruins	23	14	4	50	156	133
Buffalo Sabres	15	17	7	36	125	155
Hartford Whalers	14	16	7	35	114	121
Quebec Nordiques	16	19	2	34	131	140

Campbell Conference

Norris Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit Red Wings	17	16	5	39	150	129
St. Louis Blues	16	17	5	37	129	134
Chicago Black Hawks	15	22	2	32	142	167
Toronto Maple Leafs	14	20	4	32	139	149
Minnesota North Stars	13	22	5	31	131	165

Smythe Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Calgary Flames	24	12	4	52	194	148
Edmonton Oilers	23	13	3	49	180	134
Winnipeg Jets	16	17	4	36	138	143
Vancouver Canucks	12	22	5	29	121	140
Los Angeles Kings	12	24	4	28	146	187

— Reuter

Rive, Van Rensburg advance in Australian tennis

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Top seed Christo van Rensburg of South Africa recovered from a slow start Monday to defeat Australian Johan Anderson in the first round of the New South Wales Open tennis championships at White City.

Van Rensburg, ranked 29th in the world, trailed 2-4 to Swedish-born Anderson in the first set but came back to win 7-5, 6-3, against Anderson, a semifinalist in last week's South Australian Open in Adelaide.

Seventh-seeded Joey Rive of the United States also advanced to the second round of the \$123,400 32-draw men's event, which comprises part of the Nabisco Grand Prix.

Rive, of Florida, overcame his unfamiliarity with grass courts to defeat Englishman Stephen Shaw 7-6 (7-4), 7-6 (7-3) in a 92-minute struggle. Rive managed to save a set point in the 12th game of the second set, 5-4.

Massimiliano Narducci of Italy scored the only surprise on the opening day of the men's event by ousting eighth-seeded Tom Nijssen of the Netherlands 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Other men to score first-round victories Monday included Australian Simon Youl, who beat Frenchman Jerome Potier 7-6 (7-4), 6-4, and South African Barry Moor, a 6-3, 6-1 winner over Australian Todd Woodbridge.

In the 56-draw Virginia Slims series women's event, which boasts \$200,000 in prize money, the top eight seeds, headed by American Pam Shriver and Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia, all had byes Monday.

Ninth-seeded Ros Fairbank and 10th-seed Anne Minter of Australia advanced to the second round.

South African-born Fairbank, now a United States resident, downed Radka Zrubakova of Czechoslovakia 6-3, 6-3 while Minter defeated compatriot Alison Scott 6-3, 6-1.

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SEMINARS

A two-hour seminar on TOEFL Methodology, Linguistics and Dictionary work was held on Dec. 13, 1987 at Zarqa Government Community College for English specialists in cooperation with a representative team from the Diploma/MA TOEFL methodology programme at the University of Jordan. Mr. Stuart Mathews spoke on TOEFL methodology. Mrs. Margaret Mathews briefed seminar participants on some essentials in linguistics and Mr. Turki Diab talked about dictionary work. The college president, TOEFL teachers and seminar participants appreciated this valuable contribution and ask for more seminars in the future.



Haya Arts Centre announces its programme of activities and membership registration for the mid-term holiday and the new year.

1. Regular activities in the Library, Arts, Children's Museum.
2. Special programme for the mid-term holiday includes a children's play "We the Planets" at 3:30 p.m.
3. Children's French Film Week and a play "When the Sun Vanished" at 10:30 a.m.
4. Courses for children in Ballet, Jazz Dance, Piano, Taikwondo, gymnastics and computers.
5. Courses for adults in Aerobics, Jazz Dance, Sewing, Yoga, Glass Engraving and Silk Painting.

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Cinema

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Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

S. Arabia reintroduces income tax

RIYADH (AP) — Faced with a weak oil market and a projected \$10 billion budget deficit, Saudi Arabia announced Sunday it was reimposing income taxes on foreign companies and workers after a 12-year suspension.

Saudi citizens and companies pay only the Muslim alms known as zakat, which amounts to about 2.5 per cent of income.

The official Gazette published Sunday quoted a royal decree as

saying that the income tax system for foreigners, abolished in the Islamic year covering 1975-1976, would be reintroduced Jan. 21.

The move comes on top of last week's announcement that the kingdom would borrow money by issuing bonds for the first time since the oil boom of the late 1970s flooded the kingdom's coffers with money.

The vice minister of finance and national economy, Sbeikh

Saleh Al Omair, said the new tax rates and brackets will be the same as those under the old system, with individual taxes between five and 90 per cent of income and those for companies as high as 45 per cent of gross profits.

Nearly all of the 80,000 Americans working in the kingdom fall into the top tax bracket, which starts at 66,000 riyals (\$17,600) per year.

Many, however, have contracts which call for employers to alleviate their tax burdens.

The old system exempted Saudi nationals and citizens of Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar from taxes. It was not immediately clear whether the citizens of other states in the Gulf Cooperation Council — Oman and the United Arab Emirates — also would be exempt.

The GCC was created only six years ago largely as an economic alliance.

The Saudi budget announced last week projected revenues of 105.3 billion riyals (\$28.1 billion)

and spending of 141.2 billion riyals (\$37.7 billion).

It estimated revenues include 1.8 billion riyals (\$467 million) in income taxes.

Under the revived tax system, every foreigner earning between 6,000 and 16,000 riyals (\$1,500 and \$4,300) yearly pays five per cent. The top rate of 90 per cent is imposed on those earning more than 66,000 riyals (\$17,600) a year.

Foreign companies earning up to 100,000 riyals (\$26,000) are to pay 25 per cent in taxes. Those with gross profits above one million riyals (\$266,000) pay 45 per cent.

The government also is raising minimum customs duties to 12 per cent from seven per cent, with the maximum remaining at 20 per cent. The only new duty is on imported cement.

The decree orders employers to deduct taxes from workers' paychecks and tells foreign companies to state their incomes within 15 days of the end of a year.

Central banks prop up dollar

LONDON (R) — The dollar started 1988 at record lows and then bounced sharply higher as central banks started buying heavily, dealers said.

Shares generally eased, Tokyo, the world's biggest market, fell 1.6 per cent. Frankfurt, Paris, Zurich, Amsterdam and Milan all dipped, but London rose as the dollar's bounce sparked investor interest in big dollar-earning companies.

Dealers said the dollar's gains might only be temporary. It rose to trade above 1.58 Deutsche marks and 122 yen, after the West German, Japanese and Swiss central banks intervened. It had hit record lows of 1.5615 marks and 120.20 yen in Tokyo.

"Intervention just gives you a get-out," said a London dealer. "It will take either a change in U.S. policy or in Europe's perception of the U.S. economic situation to shift sentiment."

The price of gold was fixed in London at \$484.10 an ounce, down \$2.50 from its close on New Year's Eve.

The Paris La Tribune De L'Expansion newspaper said the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations — the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Italy, Britain and Canada — secretly agreed last month that their central banks would buy

the U.S. trade and budget deficits started coming down.

"The market is waiting for the United States to take a firm stance that the dollar will not fall any further," said Mr. Hiroyuki Wada, general manager at Oka Securities, in Tokyo.

Dealers say the United States needs a cheap dollar so that its government IOUs — treasury bonds — are attractively priced overseas and so that U.S. companies gain a price advantage over foreign competitors, both in the U.S. and on world markets.

And so, since the dollar's value is key to the profits of European and Asian companies, stockholders say it will be a critical factor in whether share prices rise or fall.

"The pattern seems to be continuing from last year," said Mr. Norio Omachi, a broker at Sayo Securities in Tokyo. "If the dollar is down, the market is down."

Tokyo's 225-share Nikkei index fell 346.96 points, or 1.61 per cent, to 21,217.04.

West German shares fell sharply, with Frankfurt's 30-share Boersen-Zeitung index down 9.83 points, or nearly 3.7 per cent, to open at 259.04.

"It's the dollar again," a dealer said. "People see it falling even lower. 1988 looks like being another hard year for the stock market."

In London, shares firmed after the central banks intervened to support the dollar. The FTSE 100-share index rose about 1.2 per cent, or more than 20 points, to above 1,730, led by gains in share prices of big dollar-earning companies.

"We really believed the writing was on the wall after the Tokyo fall this morning and are frankly surprised that the market has gone up," a London stockbroker said.

But in Paris, where the house indicator slipped 0.66 per cent, dealers said they expected a sharper fall in Tokyo, which was closed most of last week for the year-end break.

In Zurich, the All Share Swiss index fell 10.6 points, or 1.4 per cent, to 758.8. Dutch and Italian shares also fell.

Singapore's Straits Times industrial index rose 10.05 points to 833.61 but the Australian All Ordinaries index fell 21.5 points to 1,297.4.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index slipped 16.46 points to close at 2,286.29, but had plunged nearly 100 points as trading opened on Monday following the weekend arrests of the former stock exchange chairman and two top aides.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES		
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.		
One Sterling	1.8750/60	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2995/3005	Canadian dollar
	1.5815/25	Deutsche marks
	1.7885/95	Dutch guilders
	1.2825/35	Swiss francs
	33.121/15	Belgian francs
	5.3510/40	French francs
	1167/1168	Italian lire
	122.20/30	Japanese yen
	5.7900/50	Swedish crowns
	6.2100/50	Norwegian crowns
	6.0950/1000	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	483.10/483.60	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices were buoyed in late trading by a strong performance on Wall Street following renewed strength in the dollar. Values were at the day's highs, but trading volumes remained relatively light, dealers said.

At 1538 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was 27 points up at the day's high of 1,739.7.

Early intervention by the Bank of Japan to support the U.S. currency, followed by the Bundesbank and Swiss National Bank, pulled the dollar above the day's lows and lifted much of the gloom generated by Tokyo's 346.96-point fall in the Nikkei average, dealers said.

Wall Street gain of around 50 points after an hour and a half's trading helped, in addition to currency considerations, by a report of stronger economic growth in December compared with the previous month and news U.S. construction spending rose 2.2 per cent in November after a 0.1 per cent fall in October, dealers said.

Dealers stressed the mood on the London equity market remained cautious in the shadow of the dollar's recent sharp declines.

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Phipps Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This morning is a good time to complete projects connected with your home and family that were started, but never finished. Use your creative talents to make your work move more quickly.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Help your kin to gain their wishes this morning, but later try to improve your own talents. Drive carefully, and be sure your brakes work well.

Taurus (Apr. 20 to May 20) Clear up the loose ends connected with your work and you can make greater progress. Use your sense of humor to relieve tensions at home.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Plan a new budget, but before implementing it, talk over your plans with an expert. Take care of any neighborhood responsibilities.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Take any treatment that can improve your health and appearance. Don't be extravagant in the spending of money tonight.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Handle all your important private matters before making plans to get together with friends. A new acquaintance can be very helpful to you.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Don't be so casual about achieving your goals — go after them with a vengeance. Your friends can give you good advice if you ask for it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get your duties finished up early today so you'll have plenty of time to take care of some important personal affairs which have been put off.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Try to gain the favor of a superior who can further your career interests. Be sure to take care of any important credit matters.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be sure you're armed with the proper information before you begin any new activities. Rely on common sense, not on hunches.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Study the promises you have made, and either carry through with them or make some revisions which will make them more practical.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) If a friend asks for your support, give it willingly if the plan is feasible. Study civic matters carefully so you won't end up looking foolish.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Be efficient, and use more patience with co-workers. This will make everyone happy and more cooperative. Get plenty of rest.

THE Daily Crossword by Harvey L. Chew

ACROSS

1. Billionaire's past.
3. Heroic tales.
10. "Two Years Before the Mast" author.
14. Nor. king.
15. Representative.
18. Sate.
17. Ethical weed.
18. Miles Doane.
20. Be a model.
21. "I, Sarto."
22. Car floor.
24. Theater and.
25. Grand Coolidge.
26. Madrid miss.
31. Connect.
32. Art colony site.
36. Jean.
38. Stapleton role.
38. Bashful.
39. Anglo-Saxon laborer.
40. Tex. city.
41. Staff part.
42. Born.
43. NY city.
44. Maine.
45. Belg. city.
47. Musical competition.
50. Realism.
52. Ski lift.
53. Surroundings and 10. Leave attacks.
57. Korean port.
61. Egyptian deity.
62. Hied.
64. Prospect.
65. Buck.
66. Shot out.
67. Pilsner.
68. Game of chance.
69. Park, Colo.
70. Gambling city.

DOWN

1. Part of n.b.
2. Sides or Aida.
3. Ancient oliment.
4. Excessive amount.
5. Sausage.
6. Sinec.
7. Microbe.
8. Mays and.
9. Musical term.
10. Leave.
11. Eng. river.
12. Law term.
13. Fish sauce.
21. Cup handle.
23. "What — God wrought?"
25. Stone pillar.
27. "Poor" girl.
28. Alternate.
29. Certain group.
30. "A Bell For —"
32. John Jacob.
33. Darling, in.
34. Sheep, prof.
37. Lifeline.
40. Linenage.
41. Very hot day.
43. Joint.
46. — bough.
48. Remains.
49. Mole weather.
51. Approaches.
54. Luxuriate.
56. Diminutive ending.
55. — Conny.
58. Boal ft.
59. Gordie or.
60. Slouch.
63. Inhabitant: suit.

Israeli cabinet approves \$31b budget for 1988

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's cabinet on Sunday approved a \$31 billion (48 billion shekel) budget for the 1988 fiscal year that calls for cuts of \$482 million (742 million shekel) in government spending.

The budget includes controversial cuts in the areas of health, education and government subsidies, but leaves defence spending intact.

After six weeks of political infighting, the cabinet voted 18-2 to accept the budget presented by Finance Minister Moshe Nissim, but only after reducing the cuts by about \$844,000 (13 million shekels), Nissim said.

"The cabinet has shown it is willing to embark upon a responsible economic policy," Nissim said on Israel Radio after the cabinet session. "The government has acted toward the goal of a stable economy."

The budget must still be approved by the nation's 120-member Knesset, parliament, before it goes into effect April 1.

The new cuts are part of an ongoing austerity programme launched in 1985 to tame triple-

Oil minister predicts rise in spot prices

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Oil Minister Mana Said Oteiba was quoted Monday as predicting that spot oil prices will rise "within a few days" to the OPEC benchmark price of \$18 a barrel.

In an interview with the state-run Al Itihad daily, Dr. Oteiba said prices had already improved to nearly \$17 a barrel because of adherence to production restraints and pricing policy by Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC's) 13 member states.

"The month of January will be the true test for OPEC's credibility," Dr. Oteiba said.

"If the OPEC member states continue to adhere to the production and pricing policies and refrain from offering any discounts, then the spot market price will rise within a few days to \$18, the official OPEC price."

The group's production and pricing policy, designed to defend the \$18 price for crude oil, was forged at the biannual OPEC ministerial meeting in Vienna last month.

Dr. Oteiba said a price slide following the December conference was "illogical and not based on economic grounds."

He blamed it on pressures by unidentified companies to force producing states to undercut the prices.

Prices recently rebounded above the \$16 figure with reports that OPEC members were restricting their output and were firm on upholding the \$18 price.

He said he was confident that OPEC states would resist the pressures, "even if that led to a decrease in output by some states below quota levels."

That, he added, would "inevitably lead to the restoration of spot prices to the official level and even exceed it in the coming days."

Dr. Oteiba stressed that his country, one of those accused in the past of overshooting output quotas, was "committed to the spirit and text" of the OPEC resolutions.

He said his country had resisted "pressures by importing oil companies" to sell at a discount.

"Whoever wants to buy our oil, that's our price. If they don't like it, then we have no oil to sell," he said.

"The oil companies have to understand that the emirates cannot bargain on this position and that the emirates are not the weak link in the OPEC chain, but an indivisible firm part of it," he said.

Saudi Arabia, the leading OPEC exporter, spearheaded the motion to maintain the \$18 price despite demands from Iran for an increase to \$20.

One American in 46 still lives on farm

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — About one in every 46 Americans still lives on a farm, about the same share as a year earlier, the Census Bureau has reported.

Overall, 5,226,000 Americans were living on farms as of 1986, down 129,000 from 5,355,000 in 1985. But that was still about 2.2 per cent of the nation's total population, the bureau said.

By comparison, however, farmers constituted just over 30 per cent of all Americans in 1920, the first year they were identified as a separate group by the Census Bureau.

About half of all farmers reside in the nation's centre, while 29 per cent are in the south, 14 per cent in the west and only six per cent in the east. Some 97 per cent of farmers are white and two per cent black, with the rest of other races.

Other findings of the annual farm population report include the fact that median annual income was \$21,853 for farm families, against \$27,881 for non-farm families. The poverty rate for farm residents was 20 per cent in 1985, compared with 14 per cent for non-farm residents.

Meanwhile, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Richard Lyng has said he is encouraged by stronger U.S. farm exports, lower stocks and production costs, and firming land prices.

But the top U.S. agriculture official said the outlook is clouded by continued financial stress in some regions and costly government farm programmes that require vast stretches of land to be idled.

And, Mr. Lyng warned, agriculture's longer term prospects will depend largely on the outcome of thorny global trade talks.

Boosted by low U.S. prices and a declining dollar, U.S. exports are forecast to rise over nine per cent next year to 141 million tonnes, Mr. Lyng said. And the U.S. farm trade surplus should expand to \$11.5 billion from \$7.3 billion, he said.

Mr. Lyng said that between March 1985 and October 1987 the dollar dropped an average of 23 per cent against the currencies of U.S. foreign customers, almost reversing a 50-per cent rise in the value of the dollar between 1980 and 1985.

While the trade picture looks dim compared with 1981, when U.S. farmers sold a record 162 million tonnes of goods overseas, it is considerably brighter than in 1986, when exports dropped to 110 million tonnes.

Continued high government outlays are necessary, he said, to combat foreign subsidies, and they will be reduced only through an international agreement.

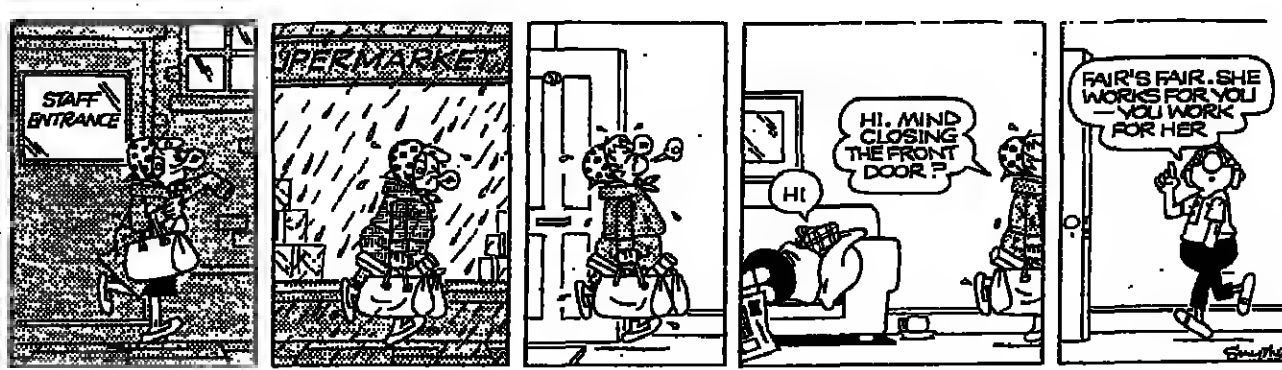
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



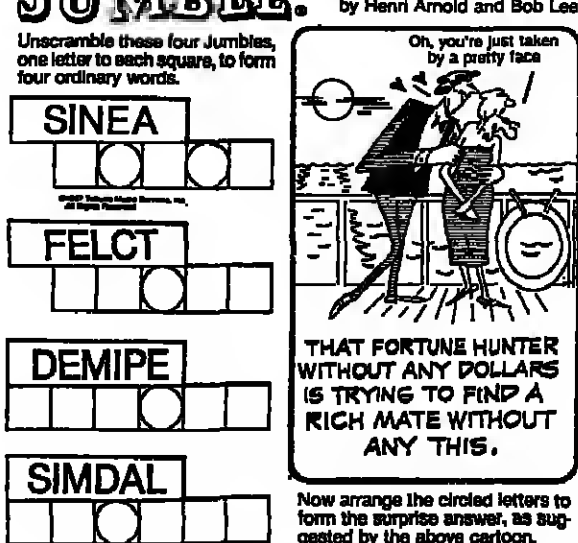
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



Print answer here: "SINEA FELCT DEMIPE SIMDAL"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: WOMEN CATCH VIRTUE SECIDE

Answer: "There's a lot of money to be made in the cattle business" — SO IVE "HERO"

New Year violence death toll hits 60 in S. Africa

Pretoria denies lifting border restrictions

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Five more people, including a seven-year-old girl, have been killed in the black-against-black violence that has engulfed the South African city of Pietermaritzburg, police said on Monday.

The latest victims took the death toll during the Christmas-New Year holiday period to more than 60.

The feud, between the leftist United Democratic Front (UDF) and the Zulu-based Inkatha Movement, has spread in most of the black townships around Pietermaritzburg and welfare groups in the Natal provincial capital say it is out of control.

Police said a father and his seven-year-old daughter were stabbed to death when a gang attacked their home in Shange on Sunday.

At Mpumalanga township, rioters set fire to a dwelling, killing a man and injuring a woman and child. Police fired shots to disperse gangs in Slangspruit, where a man was stabbed to death.

The fifth victim was a black

man in Mpande, also knifed to death, police said.

Nearly 300 people have been killed and thousands wounded since the feud erupted last year. Mediators moved to a halt over the holiday and a public row erupted between Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, who have been at the centre of peace efforts.

Buthelezi, the Inkatha leader, has accused Tutu of siding with the UDF and being linked with "labyrinthine intrigue which purposefully sets out to perpetuate the violence."

Tutu, leader of the Anglican Church, responded that Buthelezi "appears to think that his leadership is enhanced by denigrating others."

The UDF and the more conservative Inkatha both oppose apartheid race segregation but disagree over tactics.

In a separate development, South African police said on Monday they were maintaining strict security checks at the border with Botswana, discounting a report from Botswana that the restrictions had been lifted.

The month-long slowdown in trade and travel across the frontier stems from South African accusations that Botswana was harboring black nationalist guerrillas.

Col. Vic Haynes, police commander on the South African side at Tlokweng, the main border post, told Reuters by telephone that "as far as we are concerned the status quo is being maintained."

South African forces began intensive searches of vehicles crossing the frontier on Dec. 2, causing long delays on the crucial trade route for Botswana, a small black-ruled state heavily dependent on its big neighbour.

Commission to visit C. America

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) — A 15-member international commission was expected to begin a trip through Central America to see how well the countries are complying with a regional peace plan agreed to last August.

Representatives of the United Nations, the Organisation of American States, five Central American governments and the eight Contadora Support Group countries began assembling in Panama on Sunday.

After meeting with government officials and the National Reconciliation Commission in Costa Rica on Monday, they are to visit Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. They return to Panama next Sunday to wrap up their work.

The peace plan — signed in Guatemala on Aug. 7, 1987, by the presidents of Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala — established the international verification and follow-up commission to see that the signatories fulfill commitments made in the accord.

The peace plan calls for amnesties and cease-fires, specific steps toward democracy, a halt to the use of any country's territory as a base for attacks on another nation and an end to foreign aid for rebels fleeing in the region.

Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto said the panel will gather first-hand information on acts of compliance.

Although there was some effort to reach cease-fires in the three countries with civil wars — El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala — little progress was made despite an extension of the peace plan's original Nov. 5 deadline.

Cardinal Miguel Obando Y. Bravo, Archbishop of Managua and mediator in indirect talks between U.S.-supported contra rebels and the leftist Nicaraguan government, said Sunday the two sides had not been able to agree on a site for a third round of discussions.

West German diplomat killed in central Paris

PARIS (R) — A West German consular clerk was shot and fatally wounded on a deserted footbridge over the River Seine in central Paris early on Monday.

Initial suspicion fell on Kurdish extremists, but police were cautious about assessing blame for the killing of Siegfried Wielspuetz, 32.

Police sources said a sealed envelope with the name of the Kurdistan Liberation Movement (MLK) was found on the body. It contained an MLK tract detailing Kurdish grievances against West Germany but no claim of responsibility.

Mr. Wielspuetz was shot in the chest by one or two attackers at about 2.00 a.m. as he was crossing the Seine in the direction of the Eiffel Tower, the sources said.

The West German consulate, where he worked in the legal and consular section, is located nearby.

There was no immediate comment from the West German embassy and fellow members of the consulate staff refused to talk to reporters.

West German sources said Mr. Wielspuetz, who was married,

was assigned to Paris from Bonn about two years ago. He regularly worked at nights and his job included handling Kurdish problems.

The dying man was found by two passers-by who alerted police.

He expired shortly after being admitted to Paris's Val De Grace Military Hospital but managed to utter a few sentences, the sources said.

It was not immediately clear whether his last words would provide any clue to the identity of the gunman.

Kurdish activists have occupied offices in a number of West European capitals over the past few years to dramatise the plight of Kurdish people dominated by majorities in Turkey, Iraq and Iran.

Their attention focused on West Germany after police raids there last August in search of suspected Kurdish extremists. Funds were seized during the raids.

Kurdish nationalists occupied the West German consulate in Paris last October to demand the return of the money.

N. Korea urges talks with South on disarmament

TOKYO (AP) — North Korea urged South Korea on Monday to agree to a conference among people "from all walks of life" to discuss disarmament on the Korean peninsula and allowing North Korea to become a co-host in the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

"These problems are not ones related to the interests of the authorities of both sides or specific political parties, but ones related to the common interests of the nation," said Ho Dam, a secretary of the Korean Workers (Communist) Party Central Committee.

"Therefore, they can be settled correctly only when the will of the authorities, political parties, social organisations and individual personalities of the North and the South are brought together," Mr. Ho said in a statement broadcast by Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency, monitored in Tokyo.

He said the conference could

take up the subjects of multinational disarmament talks, discontinuing large-scale military exercises, sharing the 1988 Summer Olympics and "ceasing to hurl abuses and slanders against each other."

Meanwhile, Mr. Ho said, "antagonism and confrontation, the danger of war and permanent split are increasing day by day."

Mr. Ho's statement followed a call by North Korean President Kim Il Sung, in his New Year's address, for a North-South meeting attended by people "from all walks of life, political parties, organisations and people of different opposition groups, but also with the South Korean rulers, unless this is contrary to the people's will."

He said such a conference could result in "breaking the deadlock between North and South and promoting peace and peaceful reunification of the country."

Bush to get biggest check in Treasury campaign funds

WASHINGTON (AP) — Twelve presidential hopefuls can celebrate the 11th day of Christmas on Monday as they receive the first wave of federal matching funds from the U.S. Treasury.

Vice President George Bush will be getting the biggest haul as the treasury dishes out a total of \$25.6 million. Later in the week, \$3.1 million more in checks will be distributed.

Mr. Bush, a Republican, will receive \$4.8 million Monday and more than \$900,000 later in the week.

Only Democrat Jesse Jackson has not qualified for matching funds, but that is expected to change when his campaign files new documentation with the Federal Election Commission.

Presidential candidates can win eligibility for federal matching funds by raising at least \$5,000 in individual contributions of \$250 or less in at least 20 states. Once eligible, all individual contributions up to \$250 are matched dollar-for-dollar by money from the treasury, which comes from taxpayers who volunteer one dol-

lar of their personal income tax returns.

Here is a list of the candidates and the amounts of matching funds due them:

- Bruce Babbitt, Democrat — \$719,235;
- Vice President George Bush, Republican — \$5,761,540;
- Sen. Robert Dole, Republican — \$4,338,141;
- Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, Democrat — \$3,493,418;
- Pete Du Pont, Republican — \$1,868,762;
- Representative Richard Gephardt, Democrat — \$1,737,216;
- Senator Albert Gore Junior, Democrat — \$1,556,401;
- Alexander Haig, Republican — \$274,850;
- Gary Hart, Democrat — \$100,000;
- Representative Jack Kemp, Republican — \$3,012,949;
- Pat Robertson, Republican — \$4,495,607; and
- Sen. Paul Simon, Democrat — \$1,390,137.

Peking foreign students protest over paralysed colleague

PEKING (R) — Foreign students marched to the Chinese Public Security Ministry on Monday demanding justice for a Mexican student paralysed after he was allegedly pushed off a roof by unknown attackers and mistreated by police.

Fifty students of several nationalities gathered in central Peking's Tiananmen Square before marching about one kilometre to the ministry, which controls China's police.

They put up a banner saying "Investigation and justice for the incident of Dec. 30" in English, Chinese and Spanish but witnesses said police tore it down.

Two students who visited 33-year-old Mexican Francisco Reyes in a Peking hospital said he told them police detained and mistreated him for seven hours before taking him to hospital.

"He is paralysed from the chest

down. The police just put him in a chair," one student said.

Reyes, an art student in the eastern town of Hangzhou who was in Peking on holiday, told them he went to a hotel in the capital with Chinese friends on Dec. 30.

Later in the evening, a stranger arrived and started arguing with him, accused him of being a spy and then attacked him with karate blows, knocking him to the ground, the Mexican told the students.

His assailant then left the hotel, but when Reyes tried to leave the doorman stopped him.

He hid for over an hour, he said, then seeking escape he went out onto a roof some four metres from the ground but was pushed off by several Chinese who descended to kick him as he lay immobile.

COLUMNS 768

Japan stores sell lucky bags worth \$1.7m

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese department store is selling a "lucky bag" containing mystery gifts for 210 million yen (\$1.7 million) to celebrate the New Year. Japanese people like to buy bags at New Year without knowing what is in them — the contents are supposed to be worth more than the price, and people enjoy the surprise. But because of the gift-edged price, the Mitsukoshi Department Store said it is letting potential buyers of the super-expensive lucky bag know what they were getting. "The bag contains a golden dragon weighing 2.5 kilograms with diamond eyes, a rough diamond, a Swiss-made watch, a diamond necklace and a jewellery box to put them," he said. Altogether they are worth over 300 million yen (\$2.46 million). The spokesman said the price of 210 million yen was suggested by the approaching 21st century. "We are living in an affluent society and we hope to be able to sell it," he added.

Pope dines with Rome street people

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II, serving himself pasta and drinking wine mixed with water, had supper with more than 100 of Rome's homeless street people at a Vatican charity institute. The Pope greeted members of the group, some of them accustomed to sleeping outdoors, one by one before sitting down to a simple meal no different, according to press reports, from those served every day at Rome's needy at Santa Marta Institute within the Vatican walls. Among the homeless men and women who shared the Pontiff's table, covered with a white tablecloth for the occasion, were poor immigrants to Italy from the Ivory Coast, Algeria, Zaire and other Third World countries, as well as Italians. There were also several children present, the youngest only six months old. Men from Zaire and Italy who sat flanking the Pope filled his glass with wine and water. He served himself the menu of Ravioli and Tortellini, roast veal with peas and fresh fruit. The San Paolo Centre of the institute, which began aiding the poor in 1869, serves 600 meals per day and offers free lodging to 50 homeless people each night.

Traffic stopped with body of victim

PEKING (AP) — Chinese peasants enraged by the hit-and-run death of a comrade dragged the man's corpse onto a highway and caused a 1,000-vehicle traffic tie-up while they extorted money from motorists, according to a provincial radio broadcast. The report from Changsha in southern China's Hunan province said 40 to 50 peasants from Yiyang county dumped the dead man's body on the highway on Dec. 28 after local authorities refused to pay compensation for his death. The man was killed instantly the previous night by a hit-and-run truck. The driver of the truck has not been apprehended, said the broadcast, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corp., and seen in Peking on Monday. The report said the peasants demanded money from passing vehicles, saying the dead man had to be buried and the burial party needed food and drink.

17 executed after mass rally

PEKING (AP) — A mass rally convicted 17 accused criminals, and then sent them immediately to be shot in one of the largest reported group executions of recent years, according to a radio report. A report reaching Peking on Monday said the 17 were convicted of various crimes, including murder, rape and robbery. Five other prisoners were convicted at the same rally of robbery and were sentenced to life imprisonment or lesser terms. The Christmas Day rally in Shenyang, capital of north east China's Liaoning province, was reported by a provincial radio station monitored by the British Broadcasting Corp. The report did not say how many people came to the Shenyang gymnasium for the rally. The usual practice at past such rallies has been for authorities to gather thousands of onlookers by ordering work units to send some of their employees. The convicts were taken immediately afterward to the execution ground and shot, the report said. It did not give details of any of the crimes or identify those executed.

Chinese woman miscarries octuplets

PEKING (R) — A woman in north east China miscarried octuplets after five months of pregnancy, the official New China News Agency said on Monday. The octuplets were the first pregnancy for Zhang Shuxiang, a peasant aged 25. All emerged dead or died within 30 minutes of delivery at a hospital in Changchun City, the agency said.

Foetus removed from baby's belly

PEKING (R) — Doctors in southern China have operated on a 40-day-old baby girl to remove a foetus from her belly, a local newspaper reported. The Shaoyang Daily, quoted by the New China News Agency on Sunday, said the foetus weighed less than one kilogramme. The baby's mother, a peasant from Hunan province, took her daughter to hospital saying she was suffering from a "strange" ailment and it took doctors some hours to realise what was wrong, the daily said. The baby was doing well after the operation.

'Tear gas' sends 151 to hospital

TOKYO (AP) — Twenty-four people were hospitalised after suffering from fumes believed to be a kind of tear gas emitted from a bucket thrown into a health centre in south western Japan, police said Sunday. The 24 were among 151 people sent to nearby hospitals Saturday evening complaining of headaches and stinging eyes, a police official said. The official said a masked man riding a motorbike threw a plastic bucket into the lobby of the Western Japan Family Health Centre in Kita Kyushu, some 800 kilometres south west of Tokyo. A police official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said about 800 people were in the health centre at the time of the incident. The bucket thrown into the centre contained a black liquid that appeared to be a type of tear gas, he said.

'Safe sex' banned by word sleuths

SAULT STE. MARIE, Michigan (AP) — People who think they're on the "cutting edge" of society by practising "safe sex" in "alternative lifestyles" should relearn the English language. A group of word sleuths said Friday. Those are examples from a crowd of words and phrases that made the 1988 New Year's dishonour list of words banished from the Queen's English, developed annually by the Unicorn Hunters of Lake Superior State University at a big party on New Year's Eve. Also on this year's list were redundancies, including "secluded privacy" and "free gift," and government lingo like "trickle-down effect" and using "task" as a verb. The group said the "oxymoron for the 1988 campaign year is 'political science,'" and wondered what kind of car is there other than a "road car." The Unicorn Hunters, a nationwide group of thousands of people who pay \$5 for a lifetime membership, have been publishing their list of banished words since 1976. The word sleuths take written submissions from Nov. 15 to Dec. 15. Peter Skinner and Trudie Mason of Montreal nominated "safe sex." They suggested that the phrase be sentenced to life in prison with Dr. Ruth Westheimer, a syndicated sex adviser.

Chinese magazine lists Reagan's failings

PEKING (R) — An official magazine on Monday called Ronald Reagan's presidency "deficient," "clumsy" and "swollen-headed," in a rare public criticism of a foreign leader.

The English-language Peking Review said Mr. Reagan had become a "lame-duck" leader who would find it hard to recover political prestige before he left office.

The article did not directly refer to relations between China and the United States, strained last week by Washington's expulsion of two Chinese diplomats in what Peking angrily called a "frame-up." China has threatened to retaliate.

The U.S. president's image had

been tarnished since mid-1986 by policy blunders, it said.

Mr. Reagan showed "dramatic inconsistency" in his handling of the Reykjavik summit, it said. "The U.S. president's clumsy performance... cast serious doubt over Washington's reliability and ability to lead the West," the article said.

The Reagan administration had "lost the trust of some old friends," by its "duplicitous" in secretly supplying arms to Iran while calling on other nations not to do so.

Washington has repeatedly accused China of selling Iran weapons, a charge which Peking denies.

Mr. Reagan's "miscalculations

and embarrassment" partly stemmed from his appointment of officials for their political conservatism rather than competence, the magazine said.

Because of early successes, "Reagan and his close associates got so swollen-headed... they refused to listen to some important members of the cabinet," it said.

The magazine said however the president should not be underestimated and still had substantial public support at home.

But it added: "His image in history has been tarnished. Instead of a strong and honest leader, Reagan is perceived as a deficient, with a poor grasp of policy details and a detached management style."

Surprise witness says soldier shot Sen. Aquino

MANILA (R) — Testifying amid a bomb threat, a surprise witness told a court on Monday that he saw a soldier shoot Benigno Aquino in the head as the Philippine opposition leader arrived from U.S. exile in 1983.

Jessie Barcelona broke a four-year silence to give the most graphic account of an assassination that sparked the overthrow of President Ferdinand Marcos and swept Aquino's widow, Corazon, to power in 1986.

Barcelona's two-hour testimony was interrupted by an announcement by Chief Prosecutor Raul Gonzales that his staff had found a live grenade in his office near the courtroom along with a death note warning him against pursuing the case.

Mr. Gonzales requested a recess, telling the three judges: "I need to collect my thoughts."

A janitor showed reporters the grenade and a note she said she found on the prosecutor's bathroom window as Barcelona was testifying in the trial of 36 soldiers and four civilians.

The handwritten note, signed Avsecom Blue, said: "Stop this foolish nonsense. Now we are sending you a souvenir to show you we have the hardware."

Mr. Gonzales told reporters the gunman referred to by Barcelona could be constable Rogelio Moreno, of the Aviation Security Command (Avsecom), whom previous evidence had established as the soldier directly behind Sen. Aquino.

Barcelona was the second eyewitness in the twice-heard case to say a soldier killed Sen. Aquino.

An airport ground equipment operator, Barcelona said he was driving a tractor on the tarmac when, about 15 metres (50 feet) away, he saw Sen. Aquino shot in the head by a soldier following him down a staircase from a plane.

A woman co-passenger of Sen. Aquino testified in a 1985 trial that she saw through the aircraft window a soldier point a gun at Sen. Aquino's head but did not hear any gunfire.

Senior Punjab politician shot in bloody start to '88

CHANDIGARH, India (R) — A senior Punjab politician fiercely critical of violence sweeping his native state was shot and killed on Monday, capping a bloody start to 1988.

Police said Jagat Ram, a former state minister and senior figure in Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party, was shot outside his home by two suspected Sikh gunmen.

A friend with him was also hit and died on the spot.

The attack happened at Phagwara in the centre of the Punjab where Sikh militants fighting for an independent Sikh homeland have killed 18 people since the turn of the year.

Jagat Ram lost his seat in the Punjab assembly in 1984, but the 60-year-old remained a popular leader of Punjab's Harijans or untouchables and was opposed to terrorism.

In other killings in the state, three members of one family were shot on Sunday night while they slept in their farmhouse about 20 kilometres south of Amritsar.

Two policemen were among another eight people who died over the weekend and the bodies of two suspected extremists were found last Friday outside Sikhdom's holiest shrine, the Golden Temple in Amritsar.

Police said Sikh militants shot dead three people in Beas village on Friday.

The year began as it ended when nine members of one family were massacred on New Year's Eve in their home near Amritsar.

Police in the Punjab capital Chandigarh said their deaths took the overall toll during 1987 to more than 1,230, almost twice as many as the 640 killings they recorded in 1986.

Meanwhile, eleven Bengali immigrants were killed when guerrillas raided a village in north east India's Tripura state, police said on Monday.

Twenty-five rebels from the Tripura National Volunteers stormed into Chaliabankul village on Sunday and opened fire with automatic weapons, police said.

Women and children were among the dead.

Former U.S. senator faked death 'to save his life'

NEW YORK (AP) — Former U.S. Senator David Friedland says he lived for a time in the wilds of Africa during his two years on the run after faking his death to avoid enemies and going to jail, according to a broadcast interview.

He staged a scuba diving death on Labour Day 1985 in the Bahamas to escape people who thought he would testify against them and to avoid a seven-year prison sentence, according to a transcript of the interview Monday on the U.S. television network CBS.

"I lived in a tent in Africa for a while with the lions walking within 15 feet (five metres) of my tent," he said.

There were elephants and African warriors in his camp, he said. "Glamorous, glorious life this was out in the wild, tenting out," he said. "I wanted to live as a basic simple person. I like to be close to nature, close to the land and I wanted to get far away from all the concrete and all of the problems plaguing me and the fears I had."

But after more than two years,

"I wanted to stop running," he said in the interview, videotaped Thursday at the jail where he is incarcerated. He described how he knew his arrest was imminent in the Maldives Islands, where he was detained on Dec. 12.

"I knew three days ahead they were coming and I called some people in the United States and said I would be coming home soon," said Friedland, 50, who was returned to the United States a week ago from the Indian Ocean island where he had lived for the past 18 months.

He has begun serving the seven-year sentence on his conviction for accepting \$360,000 in kickbacks in return for arranging a \$4-million loan from a Union Pension Fund in New Jersey.

After his 1980 conviction, he stayed out of jail by agreeing to cooperate with federal authorities investigating political corruption. When the deal broke down, he told CBS, he thought he had no alternative but to flee.

"I was afraid of being murdered by people who were afraid I might testify against them," he said.